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Palestinian Affairs

Reports on Delegates' Resignations Continue 9-10 Aug

'Arafat Reportedly Rejects Resignations

NC0908151093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that three prominent members of the delegation—Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—tendered their resignation to the PLO leadership.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akr, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat rejected the resignations.

Dr. al-'Akr told our news desk that the resignations, whether they are accepted or not, do not represent divisions within the PLO, although they were poorly timed. The Palestinian official added that the move has to do with the regional tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his meeting with the Palestinian delegation.

The PLO is undergoing a political crisis, al-'Akr stated. He called on the United States and Arab countries to refrain from putting any pressure on the Palestinian leadership.

Dr. al-'Akr denied that the crisis is directly linked with the recent call by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi for the creation of a collective Palestinian leadership that would make its decisions in a democratic way.

According to well-informed Palestinian sources, intensive efforts are under way to contain the differences between the Palestinian leadership and the negotiating team concerning the amendments the Palestinian leadership introduced to the Palestinian paper handed to Secretary Christopher without consulting with the members of the negotiating team. The matter will be discussed at length at a meeting to be held by the Palestinian leadership later today.

Replacements Reportedly Named

LD0908202793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Sharp disputes have sometimes been described as serious in the pyramid of the Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

News is contradictory. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat has reportedly accepted the resignations of the three Palestinian delegation members—Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—and has replaced them with Nabil Sha'th, [head of Palestinian National Council Political Committee], Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee and Fatah member], and Yasir 'Amr [PLO Executive Committee member, independent]. This report has not yet been confirmed, while Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Palestinian president's political adviser, denied the news of the resignations. As for the Israeli Government, it only restated that it will not negotiate directly with the PLO.

Negotiator Comments on Situation

JN0908170093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Report and interview carried within the "With the Events" feature]

[Text] There are conflicting news reports coming from Tunis and East Jerusalem on the acceptance by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of the resignations of certain members of the Palestinian negotiating team: namely, Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. In a news report carried a short while ago, AFP asserted that 'Arafat appointed his political adviser Nabil Sha'th and PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas and Yasir 'Amr as replacements. Our correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi has spoken to Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, who is currently in Tunis.

[Begin recording] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah: What are the latest developments regarding the consultations currently under way among the PLO leadership in Tunis?

[Al-Ju'bah] The Palestinian leadership meetings with some members of the negotiating team currently in Tunis began yesterday evening. They will continue for at least the next two days. Other members of the Palestinian delegation headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will arrive in Tunis today to continue the consultations. Discussions are revolving around two basic issues: a joint working mechanism to govern the relationship between the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian delegation, and the evaluation of the developments over the past two weeks—that is, Christopher's tour, and finalizing our national action plan for the upcoming phase.

[Mu'addi] What is the basic bone of contention between the Tunis-based PLO leadership and members of the Palestinian delegation?

[Al-Ju'bah] As a matter of fact, there are no substantive differences over the issues and topics listed on the negotiations agenda. However, there is a complete misunderstanding between the two because of the existence of the Palestinian diaspora and because of the difficulties encountered by the national action mechanism. The delegation members, or at least most of the delegation members, live in the territories, and some of the related work is done outside the territories. Consequently, there have been problems pertaining to communications and

work mechanisms. But, still, there have been no differences over basic national issues.

[Mu'addi] But the news reports spoke of differences over the draft declaration of principles submitted to the U.S. secretary of state during his recent tour of the region.

[Al-Ju'bah] Christopher received only one document, the document submitted to him by the Palestinian delegation, which was previously endorsed by our national leadership in Tunis. Consequently, any talk of two separate documents delivered to Christopher is baseless. The leadership proposed a document, and the Palestinian delegation edited this document, introducing linguistic changes to it. That is all.

[Mu'addi] Then why have members of the Palestinian negotiating team traveled to Tunis unexpectedly? The same applies to chief negotiator Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

[Al-Ju'bah] As a matter of fact, the travel to Tunis by the Palestinian delegation is normal. This is not their first visit to Tunis. Whenever a national issue is to be decided, and whenever there is an important tour of the region by a foreign official, the Palestinian delegation goes to Tunis for consultations with our national leadership. As for Dr. Haydar, his arrival in Tunis has been delayed for only one day. As you are well aware, he was not able to leave the occupied territories yesterday morning. He left a bit late. He arrived in Amman yesterday afternoon. There were no afternoon flights between Amman and Tunis. That is all. He will arrive in Tunis today, as you are well aware.

[Mu'addi] In the wake of these consultations, what are the next steps that the Palestinian side will take?

[Al-Ju'bah] As a matter of fact, our future plan is to examine various options, to finalize the Palestinian document, and to finalize Palestinian proposals for the next round of talks. As you know, there is currently a Palestinian discussion under way of the option called Gaza and Jericho First. We are now thinking, in practical terms, of the means to achieve such a solution. That is, we are now examining the prospects for reaching such a solution through a transitional phase and a final phase. The transitional phase must apply to all occupied territories. Moreover, part of the provisions to be enshrined in a final status solution—the complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho—will also be effected during the transitional phase. This is the best linkage between the two phases on the ground.

[Mu'addi] Do you expect any decisions or recommendations at the conclusion of the consultations currently under way in Tunis.

[Al-Ju'bah] We certainly expect the issuance of a final statement on these meetings, one that would cross all the t's and dot all the i's.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, who is currently in Tunis, thank you very much.

[Al-Ju'bah] You are welcome.

Ambassador Denies Delegates Resigned

JN0908185093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, has disclosed that meetings in the Tunisian capital will go on until tomorrow. The differences between the delegation [to the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks] and the PLO leadership are about certain organizational procedures.

Speaking to our political affairs correspondent, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, he also said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Rahim] In my opinion, the problems do not warrant resignations. However, every now and then, the situation may call for consultations about procedures and the issues addressed at the negotiations. As of now, the meetings are ongoing, and the brothers yesterday undertook a thorough assessment of Christopher's visit. While there is consensus and accord on political issues, issues of a bureaucratic nature are the subject of an in-depth review.

[Dhiyab] So the resignations have not been proffered. Are they likely tomorrow?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Typically, those engaged in national action do not tender their resignations. One may ask to be relieved of one's duties and charged with a different task. Thus far, however, as I told you, we hear about resignations in the news media. Brothers in the Palestinian leadership tell me that the possibility of resignations has not been raised. [end recording]

Resignations Reportedly Retracted

NC0908202193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2009 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Dispatches from the Tunisian capital affirmed today that the three Palestinian delegation members Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi have retracted their decision to resign their membership in the delegation. They did this after talks with PLO leaders.

REUTER cited 'Azmi Shu'aybi, member of the Palestinian delegation's advisory committee, as saying that the problem is now over and that the three members are discussing with the PLO leaders the role they will play in the negotiations in the coming stage.

'Abd-al-Shafi on PLO Dispute

JN1008102493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 93 pp 32, 28

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation, by Tawfiq 'Abid in Amman on 9 August]

[Text] ['Abid] What was the result of "the war of documents," which took place during Christopher's tour, on the Palestinian front?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, there was a war of documents as you so call it. However, I cannot say for certain that Egypt submitted a document on behalf of the PLO. We heard about this, and perhaps it is true. The disagreement revolves around the wording and some of the contents of the same document that was sent to Jerusalem for submission to the Americans.

In any case, there were amendments made to this document and finally an agreement was reached on the document's wording before submitting it to the U.S. side. We consider the document submitted in Jerusalem the main document. The document that was submitted in Egypt is considered void and has no importance whatsoever.

['Abid] Some observers believe that the delegation is becoming more intransigent than the Palestinian leadership. What is your comment on this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is jumping to conclusions. Therefore, I say that there are differences in viewpoints. However, it should not be said that the delegation is more intransigent than the leadership or that the leadership is abandoning its responsibilities. What I would like to say is that it is natural to have differences and I do not want this to be interpreted as intransigent positions or abandonment of responsibility.

['Abid] There is talk about secret meetings and dialogues between the PLO and Israel. Does this pave the way for mutual recognition?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If these dialogues are paving the way for mutual recognition, then we welcome them. It is natural for Israel to negotiate with the PLO, the official and political Palestinian authority. Personally, I welcome such a development.

['Abid] What was accomplished during Christopher's tour in terms of the Palestinian demands concerning Jerusalem, territorial jurisdiction, and freezing settlements?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are still facing a crisis, especially in terms of the main issues we are focusing on, which are Jerusalem, territorial jurisdiction, and freezing settlements in the occupied territories. So far, the Israeli side has not responded. Moreover, the U.S. stand, which is biased toward Israel in these issues, was exposed.

['Abid] How is the situation inside the occupied territories? Do the citizens still believe in the political process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The truth is that there is disappointment with the negotiations because of the lack of progress, the fierce and repressive Israeli practices, and Israel's continued establishment of facts on the ground which ultimately serve its interests. All these negative points "weakened" the credibility of the negotiations. A recent survey showed that 50 percent of our people continue to support the negotiations.

['Abid] Concerning Arab cooperation, some say that if the knot is not untangled on the Palestinian track, it will have a negative impact on the idea of a comprehensive solution, and then the Arab parties will conclude separate agreements. Do you believe this is possible?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, this will not happen. There is a principled agreement that the Arab stand should remain united and that the peace process is indivisible. I am confident that not one of our Arab brothers will undertake a separate agreement, because the peace issue is indivisible and because the Palestinian cause is its essence.

['Abid] You recently called for a collective leadership. Do you stand by this call, or will the differences between the delegation and its command make you postpone it?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Absolutely not. The differences will not postpone this call. I view the issue of a collective leadership as an urgent matter and one of our most important issues. It is more important than the negotiations. We direly need to redress the situation and reorganize the Palestinian house by having a collective leadership that will move on democratic bases and can run affairs in a systematic manner that can benefit from all resources and potentials of the Palestinian people wherever they may be to serve our cause. I must affirm here that the question of collective leadership is important and is one of the priority duties we need to carry out.

['Abid] Many wonder which party is the Palestinian decisionmaker. Is it the PLO in Tunis or the delegation with respect to the course of the peace process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Our leadership is our political authority. However, this does not mean that our relationship with it is mechanical or that it is a leadership that issues orders and we implement. We too are Palestinians and have opinions. We consult it on what we propose at the negotiating table without any problems. Perhaps, the problem that recently took place shows that there is nothing mechanical about our relationship and that we do have our own opinions. That's why when the time came, we stated our opinion, and there was a disagreement.

Naturally, and irrespective of what has taken place, the leadership is the one empowered to make decisions. However, we are not bound by these decisions, and we will not sign an agreement unless we are convinced with it. If there is a disagreement between us and the PLO, the PLO is the higher authority given that it is the sole legitimate representative. But, if a disagreement takes place on any agreement, we might call for a Palestinian referendum.

['Abid] You were among those who called for withdrawing from the negotiations. But, what has actually taken place is that others want to withdraw now if the

disagreement is not settled. Do you still call for withdrawing from the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The opinion I still hold is that the negotiations should have been suspended at the end of the eighth round. I say here that there is no use pursuing negotiations that do not progress. The negotiations should be suspended. However, morally and coordination-wise we are committed toward the Arab side to pursue the negotiations. The situation would be untenable, particularly for our Arab brothers if we do not go and they go. That's why we should consult our Arab brothers to safeguard a united Arab stand.

['Abid] What about the Palestinian refugees residing in more than one Arab country?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There is Resolution 194 issued by the UN General Assembly in December 1948, by which we abide. We shall raise the issue of the refugees at the final stage if we reach agreement on the interim period. We shall raise this issue on the basis of Resolution 194, which stipulates the right to repatriation or compensation.

['Abid] Why doesn't the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] take part in the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not think that this is possible now, but the United Nations should be invited to participate, especially since it has documents and figures about the refugees. In 1948, the United Nations set up international committees to resolve the problem of refugees. The committees worked for three years but did not succeed because of Israeli intransigence.

['Abid] Some people are talking about the need to upgrade the level of representation of the negotiating delegations? How will this be done on the part of the Palestinians? Will PLO members take part? If this happens, will it be taken as a signal that Israel is willing to negotiate directly with the PLO? Do you expect the PLO to hold face-to-face negotiations with Israel?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If representation is upgraded, then it can be done only through negotiating with the PLO.

['Abid] What about the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In principle, I have no objection to confederation with Jordan. However, the confederation should reflect the free will of the masses of the two countries. This means we have to wait for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. As for the effects of this proposal on current developments, it is common knowledge that the United States and Israel are against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. So if they feel that there is a serious Palestinian plan to set up a confederation in the event of establishing an independent Palestinian state, then this will help lessen the intransigence of Israel and the United States.

['Abid] Frankly, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, are we going to return to the West Bank and Gaza, especially since many people expect this to happen by the end of this year and expect many facilities to be offered to ease free movement between the West Bank and the East Bank?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am not that optimistic. Israel is trying to appear flexible, but I do not think that it will go as far as responding to our demands and allow all the Palestinians who left after the 1967 aggression to return during the interim period. Besides, the Palestinian leadership has its own stand toward the 1948 refugees. However, I do not believe that Israel is willing to respond to our demands in this regard. Everything largely depends on the U.S. position. Israel takes intransigent stands because it has military power, without reference to justice or law. This also has to do with the U.S. position and the extent to which it forces Israel to abide by the legal frame of reference and the UN resolutions.

['Abid] Once again, what about free movement between the West Bank and the East Bank?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I think if we reach a satisfactory solution during the interim period, then there will be a great change in what is happening at crossing points and things will proceed naturally. Everything depends on what agreement we will reach with the Israelis regarding the interim period. If no agreement is reached, then resistance will continue and difficult Israeli constraints and suppressive practices will also continue. The least I can say is that if any agreement is reached, then freedom of movement will be better than what is the case now.

Confirms Rejection of Resignations

NC0908153293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said that the recent Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has not injected anything positive or new into the peace process.

Speaking at Cairo Airport during a stopover on his way from Amman to Tunis, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the U.S. position is still biased toward Israel. Israel, he added, still refuses to accept Palestinian demands concerning Jerusalem, settlements, and territorial jurisdiction.

Concerning the news that Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat have presented their resignations from the negotiating Palestinian delegation, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that there is no real intention for that to happen. He pointed out that the three delegation members offered their resignations to the Palestinian leadership but the offer has been rejected.

It is worth noting that 'Abd-al-Shafi will attend a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Tunisia later today to discuss the resignations of al-Husayni, 'Urayqat, and 'Ashrawi.

Denies Delegates Intended To Resign

LD1008075093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, has denied that Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi—three members of the delegation—had any true intention of resigning. 'Abd-al-Shafi said this when he and six other delegates from the occupied territories arrived at Tunis-Carthage International Airport to meet with the Palestinian leadership. He pointed out that the matter at most concerns the submission of unconsequential resignations and that he believes that such resignations are unjustifiable. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi denied the existence of any fundamental differences between the Palestinian negotiating team and the PLO leadership, especially since the Palestinian leadership endorsed the amendments which the delegation made to the Palestinian document that was handed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last Thursday [5 August] in Jerusalem.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "We will participate in a working meeting and will consult our leadership at this critical circumstance as far as the negotiations are concerned." He reaffirmed his commitment to a cohesive stance by the Palestinians irrespective of the circumstances.

Al-Rantisi Calls Resignations Gimmick

NC0908193693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees in Lebanon, said that the resignations of three members of the Palestinian negotiating team are stage-managed. No resignations will take place, he predicted, for the much-touted rift is a gimmick aimed at giving legitimacy to the negotiating team and preparing the stage for the dissolution of the PLO.

PLO Executive Committee To Begin Meeting in Tunis

LD1008123593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee will meet this evening in Tunis with the Palestinian negotiating delegation in attendance to study the latest developments of the situation at the Palestinian level and the developments of the situation in light of the recent tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. It also follows the latter's acquaintance with the Palestinian document which was in reply to the American document on the plan entitled Declaration of Palestinian-Israeli Principles in connection with autonomy in the occupied territories. The meeting of the PLO Executive Committee is expected to last for two days.

In another development, an official Palestinian source has confirmed to TAP that the reports circulated about the submission by three members of the negotiating delegation of their resignation to the Palestinian leadership as a result of differences relating to the subject of Jerusalem, were untrue.

Differences in Versions of Document Detailed

NC0908185693 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Intra-Palestinian differences have surfaced over the document handed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher by the PLO and amended by the Palestinian negotiating team. There are five major points of difference between the PLO version of the document and that of the negotiating team. These are:

First, the PLO version says: In the negotiations on the final phase, both sides have the right to raise the topics they want. The negotiating team's version says: During the negotiations, every side can raise any topic it wants.

This amendment aims to prevent excluding certain issues from the talks' agenda until the final phase.

Second, Yasir 'Arafat's version reads: The agenda of talks concerning the final phase may include the final status of Jerusalem. The amended version reads: The agenda of talks concerning the final phase should include the final status of Jerusalem.

This amendment creates an obligation for Israel instead of leaving the issue open for future discussion with the Israeli negotiators.

Third, the PLO version says: The self-rule phase can also put an end to the confrontation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The amended version reads: The self-rule phase paves the way for ending the confrontation between the Israelis and Palestinians.

This amendment avoids creating the impression that the Palestinian intifadah will end once self-rule begins.

Fourth, in the clause concerning the borders of the self-rule area, the PLO's version uses the word territories. The amended version substitutes this word with the following phrase: the occupied Palestinian territories not under Israel's control in 1967, including Jerusalem.

Fifth, in the clause concerning Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the amended version omits the word possibility.

'Ashrawi: No Changes in Palestinian Stance

LD0908191193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, stressed the importance of the stage through which the peace process was passing and said: We are facing a very difficult stage, and a flaw has

appeared in the process, a matter which imposes the necessity to correct this flaw, change the situation, and deal with the peace process differently.

With regard to the document submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the delegation presented one document to the U.S. secretary of state, in accordance with instructions from the leadership, following consultations on the Palestinian constant principles, which were presented in the draft declaration of principles in the past. She also said that there were no changes in the Palestinian stance. It is worth pointing out that the document focuses on including the issue of Jerusalem in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the final settlement.

Algeria

Journalist Assassinated by Gunmen 9 Aug

LD1008102893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The national radio learned today from a journalistic source that Benhamenli Abdelhamid, a journalist and staff member of the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE, was assassinated by the bullets of unidentified men around 2100 yesterday evening in front of his home in the capital's suburb of Eucalyptus. The same source said that the victim, Benhamenli Abdelhamid, was 43 years old, married, and the father of three children.

Egypt

U.S. Impartiality Urged in Wake of Christopher Tour

NC0908175193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "The Future of Peace in the Middle East and U.S. Credibility"]

[Text] The question on everyone's lips is: What will follow U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East and his talks with the leaders of various countries in the region? Before we address this question, we have to review a number of important aspects of Christopher's tour.

First of all, political observers saw the decision of the U.S. Administration to send Christopher to the Middle East as a sign of U.S. intentions to play a more active role in furthering the peace talks. Those observers have expressed satisfaction over Christopher's call for accelerating the peace process and removing the obstacles facing it. The most recent such obstacle was Israel's aggression against south Lebanon. U.S. mediation succeeded in ending that aggression, silencing the guns, and ending the rocket salvos.

Second, President Husni Mubarak held a joint news conference with Christopher in which he said that he hopes to see some progress in the peace process before the end of this year. Such progress, Mubarak added, will encourage various parties to continue their active participation in the peace process. Christopher, for his part, announced that he made Egypt his first stop in the region in view of Egypt's status and role in the peace process as well as its excellent relations with all the countries involved in the Middle East peace process. Political observers took the remarks of Mubarak and Christopher to be indicative of a joint Egyptian-U.S. drive to boost the peace process and achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Third, Christopher visited Damascus twice for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. Following the second visit, Christopher spoke of tangible progress in the Syrian-Israeli exchanges. Such progress suggests that an agreement involving Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the resolution of all the differences between Damascus and Tel Aviv may be in the offing.

This is the beginning of the full-partner role that the Clinton Administration has repeatedly referred to. Christopher's remarks after his second meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus underlined this fact, as did the message the U.S. President sent to the Syrian president recently.

Christopher's talks in Damascus established the sincerity of the Syrian desire to achieve just and comprehensive peace. Syria is committed to the peace process and eager to keep this process going until its objectives are achieved.

Fourth, before leaving the region last week, Christopher said that he will hold consultations with Russia, the other cosponsor of the peace talks, before they issue a joint invitation for the resumption of the peace talks in Washington.

From all the above, we may conclude that Christopher's tour of the region and his talks with all the parties to the Arab-Israeli peace talks was a success.

One aspect of this success is that Christopher obtained firsthand familiarity with the intricacies of the conflict as seen by the parties involved. Christopher listened to various views and must have formed a strong impression and opinion that would help him form a constructive view of the appropriate solution.

There is every reason to think that Christopher's talks with the parties involved have breathed new life into the peace process and paved the ground for the start of the 11th round of peace talks.

Christopher's tour gave a stimulus to the efforts of the U.S. Administration to play a more effective and positive role in bringing about a settlement in the region. Christopher's tour emphasized the U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process.

However, the full partner should adopt a more serious and firm stand in dealing with the Israeli maneuvers and continued reluctance to pay the price of peace. Washington, in its efforts to play a full partner in the peace negotiations, should assume a position of complete impartiality. An evenhanded U.S. role is a more pressing need at this phase.

The entire future of the peace process depends on the U.S. participation and impartiality in that process. The time is right for a breakthrough in the peace process that would allow the region to live in peace and stability and focus on development.

During the next round of talks, we await an answer from the U.S. Administration to our question to avoid wasting more time.

Musa Denies Cairo Imposing Will on Palestinians

NC0908144393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa described as groundless reports disseminated today to the effect that Egypt is imposing its opinion on the Palestinians. Egypt, he stated, has never imposed its opinion on the Palestinians and never will.

Musa said that Egypt is trying to stimulate the peace process. Egyptian-Palestinian working relations are excellent, he added. Those who malign the Egyptian stand hope to disrupt the ongoing Egyptian-Palestinian cooperation. The foreign minister said that Egypt and the Arabs respect the principled views of the Palestinians.

Concerning the recent tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Musa said that the reports Egypt has received indicate that all sides cooperated with the U.S. secretary.

Government Issues 'White Book' on Foreign Policy

NC0708140793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry today issued a "White Book" on Egypt's foreign policy in the years 1992 and 1993. The book notes that Egypt, with its unique strategic location, has played a prominent role at all levels, particularly in today's world, with its immense changes.

It points out that the Arab-Israeli conflict and its essence, the Palestinian issue, has occupied top priority on the agenda of Egyptian diplomatic action, which has been absorbed in a constant peaceful process to bring about just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It notes that Egypt has constantly done its utmost, in peace and war, to realize this goal.

Noting Egypt's links with the African Continent, the book states that Egypt's foreign policy has demonstrated its commitment to and interest in Africa's problems, particularly the chronic problems in the southern part of the continent and the explosive ones in the Horn of Africa. It adds that Egypt has stressed the need for maintaining the march of dialogue, democracy, development, and human rights in Africa.

The book has been distributed among Egypt's embassies abroad.

Six Israeli Arrested for Arms Smuggling

NC1008094893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 1, 11

[Report by 'Amr Nasif in Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian security forces the day before yesterday arrested six Israelis who tried to smuggle in arms, detonation equipment, and a large quantity of ammunition. This development might lead to a deterioration in relations between Israel and Egypt, which accuses the Israeli intelligence service of trying to disrupt the security situation in Egypt. Egyptian security men at the Rafah Post on the Israeli-Egyptian borders were suspicious of two cars, a white Peugeot and a Nissan, and decided to search them again after customs officials had allowed them to continue their trip. After a second search of both cars seven Kalashnikov submachine guns, 12 Uzi rifles, 2,000 rounds of various calibers, and a large number of plastic bullets were found in secret compartments. A quantity of detonators and other equipment were also discovered.

Checking the passports of the Israelis revealed an important surprise. One of the Israelis was Yitzhaq Ramon. Asked his relationship with Yitzhaq Ramon, assistant to the Shin Bet chief in Hebron, he refused to respond. He insisted that the Israeli Embassy should be notified and that Israeli Ambassador David Sultan should attend the interrogations, claiming he was unware that these weapons were in the car. Egyptian intelligence personnel held contacts at the highest level and were ordered to shroud the incident in secrecy, to arrange for a military aircraft to fly the six Israelis to Cairo, and to put the two cars and the confiscated weapons under surveillance.

AL-SAFIR learned yesterday that the names of the Israelis are: Yitzhaq Ramon, suspected of being the assistant to the Shin Bet chief in Hebron; Hayim Rubenstein; 'Ezra Itamar; Kohen Ben-Elisar; Israel Keysar, former captain in the Israeli Army; and David Milhim, a member of the special guards of former Israeli President Hayim Herzog.

Informed sources told AL-SAFIR that one of the defendants admittted that they obtained these arms from a former Israeli Army officer and were going to sell them in Luxor in the Qina Governorate in Upper Egypt. Another claimed they intended to sell them to cover the cost of the trip.

On whether the enemy embassy was notified of the incident and on the possibility of allowing embassy officials to attend the interrogations, a security source told AL-SAFIR that the Israeli Embassy was notified that six Israeli defendants were apprehended but neither the ambassador nor any staffer was allowed to attend the interrogations. He stressed that this incident will be one item in a surprising file that will be disclosed at the proper time.

Somali Foreign Minister Begins Two-Week Visit

NC0908160293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Mohamed Ali Hamoud, foreign minister of the transitional Somali Government, arrived in Cairo today on a two-week visit to Egypt. Following his arrival, the Somali minister said that he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa,

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and a number of senior Egyptian officials. Somali Ambassador to Egypt Abdallah Hassan Mahmud welcomed the Somali minister at the airport.

Cabinet on 'All-Out Confrontation' With 'Terrorism'

NC0908211993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the cabinet met this evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. It discussed a report on the security situation. Dr. Sidqi reviewed the recent all-out confrontation with terrorist elements, noting that the public's assistance is the most important factor in this task. He praised the citizens' pursuit of the terrorists in the Zaynuhum, al-Sharabiyah, and al-Amiriyah areas.

The information minister added that the cabinet praised the Egyptian citizens' alertness and courage, which were illustrated by their determination to maintain the country's stability and their rejection of extremism and terrorism.

He added that the cabinet asserted that all ministries are carrying out their role in confronting lawlessness in line with the cabinet's strategy.

The information minister said the cabinet approved provisions for extending aid to the families of all victims of terrorist acts and compensating them financially. He pointed out that this system is already in force on the instructions of his excellency the president. The provisions include immediate financial compensation, additional pensions, the exemption of the children of military and civilian martyrs from school fees and expenses, and disbursing compensation to students belonging to such families in line with social insurance regulations.

Dr. Sidqi announced that the state undertakes to provide immediate and high-standard medical treatment, at home and abroad, for all military personnel and civilians who are wounded during terrorist attacks.

The information minister added that the cabinet decided that the Interior Ministry will review and develop the safety regulations used by all establishments that use explosives, including firms and quarries. This revision aims to produce a stringent safety system and impose binding controls on such establishments.

Safwat al-Sharif said the cabinet then discussed a report submitted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in Lebanon, the results of the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus, Egypt's moves to contain the situation, and its contacts on this issue with international and Arab parties. He said that the foreign minister's report also detailed the results of his meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister and the development of relations between the two countries. The cabinet issued several recommendations to continue developing these relations and solve the differences between the two fraternal countries by holding further meetings between the two foreign ministers.

'Amr Musa also submitted a report on the results of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak about the Middle East issue, the peace operation, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Libyan-Western crisis.

The foreign minister submitted a report on the results of the recent talks between President Mubarak and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. He also reported on the working papers submitted by the parties to the Middle East peace process and Egypt's moves to boost the peace endeavor.

The cabinet emphasized its commitment to the land-for-peace principle and the need to respect the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Interior Minister on Terrorism, Tourism Industry

NC0908142893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] London, 9 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi today said that the ministry has acquired new information that will speed up the arrest of the suspect in the incident attacking Major General 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghabarah, assistant director of the North Qina Police Force.

In statements to the MENA correspondent in London, the interior minister said that terrorism is being fought scientifically and with sound planning. He affirmed that most security issues are improving.

The interior minister stated that tourism is now returning to normal in Egypt. Statistics prove that there is an increase in the number of tourists who wish to visit Egypt, as indicated by the number of British tourists wishing to visit all parts of Egypt—the north and south, as well as all the tourist and historic sites. British tourists to Egypt are currently increasing.

The interior minister said in his statements that Egypt now enjoys security and stability. He praised the cooperation of the Egyptian people with the police in working to find the terrorists and hand them over to the judiciary.

He adds that Egypt's people are alert, and have always been so. They know very well that what the terrorists are doing targets their interests first of all, and the security and stability of Egypt, as well. The public has contributed toward revealing much of the information which led to controlling the campaign of terrorism against Egypt. The interior minister confirmed the need to increase cooperation and bolster relations between the people and the police in Egypt.

The interior minister stated that proof of the fact that Egypt enjoys an atmosphere of security and safety is the recent gathering for the African summit, which was

attended by the heads of state and presidents of more than 50 African states, in addition to representatives of the press and Arab and international media representatives, who moved around the country freely and safely. This was a confirmation of the safety and security on the domestic scene.

The interior minister pointed out that he is currently in good health and that he will leave London today for Cairo after a successful visit for treatment.

Fundamentalists' Trial Postponed Without Explanation

NC0908100993 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities on Monday [9 August] postponed the opening of the trial of 53 fundamentalists accused of trying to overthrow the government, legal officials said.

They gave no reason for the delay, which comes after Islamic militants shot dead a police general in revenge for the hanging of 15 fundamentalists.

The 53 were to appear before the Cairo military court as part of the mass trial of 250 fundamentalists rounded up since December.

They were accused of forming an illegal organisation, "Tala'i' al-Fatah," which wants to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak, and arms possession.

Six were accused of murdering two civilians and attempting to murder three policemen in 1990.

Several of the accused face possible death sentences.

Military courts have sentenced to death 21 militants, and another was sentenced to hang by the state security court.

The outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] said it killed the police general in a revenge ambush on Saturday for the executions of 15 fundamentalists. His driver and bodyguard also died.

A total of 181 people have died since Islamic militants stepped up their campaign to overthrow Mubarak's secular regime in March 1992, according to an AFP toll.

Al-Jihad Suspects Released

NC1008135893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—The Military Prosecutor decided today to release 24 suspects, including seven fugitives, who had been accused in the al-Jihad case.

An official military judicial source said that the decision to release the suspects was prompted by the lack of sufficient grounds to put them on trial.

The source told MENA that the suspects, who were in custody, have been informed of the decision. Release procedures are being immediately put into effect.

Police Detain 100 After Attacks in Upper Egypt

NC1008055193 Paris AFP in English 0054 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 10 (AFP)—Egyptian police said they detained or arrested 100 Muslim fundamentalists in Qina and Asyut in Upper Egypt Monday [9 August], following the killing of police officers.

In Nag Hammadi, al-Rahmaniyah and al-Qasr in Qina Province security forces held 85 militants suspected of involvement in the killing of three police officers, including a general, at Nag Hammadi Saturday.

"Some of them had contacts with the fugitive assailants and provided police with useful information," police said.

Security forces in armored vehicles cordoned off access to the province north of the tourist resort of Luxor.

Another 15 suspected anti-government militants were detained hours after a policeman was killed at al-Qusiyah, near here, Monday.

Forty-eight policemen have been killed in Egypt by Muslim fundamentalists since March last year.

Police said the latest attacks were revenge killings for the execution of 15 Islamic militants since June.

Policeman Reported Killed

NC1008104193 Paris AFP in English 0928 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, Aug 10 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead a policeman in the southern Egyptian city of Aswan, following two earlier attacks by Islamic militants that killed four policemen, authorities said here Tuesday [10 August].

The gunmen opened fire on 'Abd-al-Hamid Jad-al-Rabb while he was in front of his home late Monday, police said.

They gave no other details, but if suspicions are confirmed, he will have been the 49th policemen to have been killed by Islamic militants since they launched a violent campaign last year.

On Saturday Islamic militants shot and killed a newly-appointed police general, his bodyguard and driver as they drove towards police headquarters in Qina Province, between Cairo and Aswan.

And early Monday a policeman was killed by Islamic militants at al-Qusiyah, 350 kilometres (220 miles) south of Cairo. [passage omitted]

The violence between authorities and Islamic militants has claimed at least 182 lives since March 1992: 68 fundamentalists and 66 civilians, including 32 Coptic Christians and three tourists, have been killed.

Wounded Policeman Dies

NC0908133893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Asyut, 9 Aug (MENA)—Policeman Muhammad Rashwan died of bullet wounds he suffered in a terrorist attack on the officers' club in al-Qusiyah city today. Al-Qusiyah Prosecution Office has ordered an autopsy to determine the precise cause of death. Security organs searching for the culprits are conducting wide-scale combing operation in the area where the attack took place.

Police Arrest 160 in Connection With Robbery

NC0708182293 London MBC Television in Arabic 1808 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Egyptian police today arrested 160 extremists on suspicion of taking part in the robbery of an explosives depot. The arrests were conducted in Abu-Za'bal, 30 km north of Cairo.

Yesterday, six persons seized large amounts of material that could be used in making explosive charges in Abu-Za'bal.

Islamists Kill Copt Accused of Collaboration

NC0608193493 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 6 (AFP)—Islamic militant gunmen shot dead a Coptic Christian, the 32nd Copt killed in a wave of fundamentalist violence that began in Egypt last year, police said Friday [6 August].

The gunmen in Dayrut al-Sharif, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo, Thursday killed pharmacist Philippe Bassilious whom militants had accused of collaborating with authorities, a police spokesman said.

Police said he had informed on a member of the militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] in January.

A Muslim and a Copt suspected of collaborating with security services were killed in June in Asyut province. Police have accused al-Jama'ah of having "decided to kill all those who collaborate with the police."

Meanwhile, police in Cairo said on Thursday they seized a "large quantity" of explosives belonging to Islamic militants groups and arrested a number of suspected activists, the pro-government AL-AHRAM daily said.

Libya

Arab League Envoy on Implementation of UN Resolution 731

NC0908153893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, has affirmed that the UN Security Council will not increase sanctions on Libya during its meeting on 15 August. Rather, the Security Council will renew these sanctions and later revoke them, either in November or December.

In a statement to MENA today, al-Bishari said that recently, Libya has taken tangible steps with regard to implementing Security Council Resolution 731 on renouncing terrorism. He voiced Libya's readiness to pay compensation to the families of the victims of the French and U.S. planes, numbering 441 people of various nationalities.

The Libyan official said that these steps have convinced the three Western states—the United States, Britain, and France—as well as the Security Council of Libya's serious stand on this matter. He disclosed that a meeting between Libyan Ambassador to Tunisia 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi and British officials was held in Cairo last week. He said that the talks dealt with questions raised by Britain about the Irish Republican Army. We answered all their questions in detail, al-Bishari said.

Al-Bishari noted that other meetings took place between al-'Ubaydi and the British ambassador to Egypt in Geneva and Cairo last year. He stressed that Libya's position toward Britain is extremely positive and supports combating terrorism.

In his statement, al-Bishari said that he will visit France within the next two days as part of the consultations and judicial cooperation with the parties to the Libyan-Western crisis. Al-Bishari visited Paris in July. He said that his talks with French officials were aimed at encouraging the French judge, who was tasked with discussing the file of the French aircraft that crashed in Niger in 1988, to meet with the Libyan judge to discuss judicial cooperation.

Al-Bishari said that Libya's withdrawal of some of its assets from Western banks in the past was done in order to preserve these assets, which belong to all Libyan people, and also as a precautionary measures.

Al-Bishari categorically denied both a power struggle in Libya and any trends to set up a leadership council of five men, as was published in some papers. He said that those who publish such information are not aware of the Libyan realities.

Al-Bishari said that signing oil agreements between Libya and the countries of France, Belgium, Romania, and Spain was done to promote Libya's oil resources and its huge oil reserves.

The Libyan official praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis and to avoid any intensification of sanctions against Libya. He affirmed that Libya has responded to and has implemented Security Council Resolution 731, although it is an unfair resolution.

Al-Bishari said that Libya cannot hand over its nationals to another country to stand trial in keeping with the British law. He affirmed, however, that the Libyan nationals can willingly surrender for trial. He said that Britain and the United States are demanding that two Libyan nationals be tried on the pretext that the Libyan judiciary is unfair. However, we believe that the two Libyans have already been tried and convicted, which is proven by Security Council Resolution 748 imposing sanctions on Libya.

Al-Bishari said that the severe damage inflicted on the Libyan people as a result of these sanctions exceeds all limits and shows that the Security Council is using a double standard. He said that increasing these sanctions on Libya represents a grave injustice since applying Chapter VII on his country runs counter to the UN Charter, since the dispute between Libya and the Western countries does not threaten world peace and security.

The Libyan official expressed his conviction that if the objective of these sanctions is to teach Libya a lesson, we tell them that the message has been received. If the objective is to punish the Libyan people, we tell them that these people have been punished enough. If the objective is to show force, we tell them that they have demonstrated that they are strong enough and we ask them to cancel the sanctions.

Government Forces Recapture Garang Supply Point

PM0908160093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum: Government Forces Regain Last Supply Point of John Garang's Forces"]

[Excerpts] London, Nairobi (AL-HAYAH)—A Sudanese Government source in Khartoum has told AL-HAYAH that the Sudanese Armed Forces have regained control of a large sector of the border strip between Sudan and Uganda, including the town of Kaya. Kaya is the main supply point on the Uganda route for the forces of Colonel John Garang, leader of the main faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLM]. AL-HAYAH has learned that the Sudanese Army used its air force to bomb Garang's positions.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has confirmed that the battles forced about 100,000 south Sudanese to seek refugee in Uganda and Kenya. [passage omitted]

In Khartoum, a government spokesman has told AL-HAYAH that the Sudanese Government used its "sovereign right" to control its borders with Uganda "in fulfillment of security agreements we signed with (Ugandan) President Yoweri Museveni."

AL-HAYAH has learned that the Sudanese Army will continue to deploy its forces in the border strip in hopes of recapturing the town of Kajo Kaji which has been used by Garang as his headquarters since he left his administrative capital Torit and his military capital Kabwita [as transliterated] last year. [passage omitted]

Government Said To Control 80 Percent of South

PM1008105893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Official: Our Forces Control 80 Percent of Country's South"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—A source at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has accused "international powers" of helping the rebels in the south of the country to undermine Sudan's stability and security. In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, the source said that government forces control 80 percent of south Sudan. He attributed the suspension of the peace negotiations with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to domestic conditions in Nigeria. Nigeria had assumed mediation between Khartoum and the movement led by Colonel John Garang.

On the freezing of Sudan's membership of the IMF, the source said: "We will be able to adjust our domestic conditions without IMF aid, which Sudan has not received for five years." The source accused major states of controlling the IMF, pointing out that the decision to freeze Sudan's membership is designed to obstruct the march of economic reform in his country.

Opposition Figure Calls for National Conference

PM1008105293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, by Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] It seems as if the Sudanese opposition is ineffective, or as if it waits for the regime's actions to react to them. This has caused it to be accused of lack of coordination among its parties and unions. What is the truth?

[Al-Mirghani] Outwardly, that could be how the opposition looks to the observer. But, in actuality, it is different. When the the coup against democracy took place and when we were in Kubar Prison, we agreed with all leaders of political and unionist action to establish the Democratic National Grouping [DNG] as a framework, grouping all political forces in order to topple the [National Islamic] Front's regime. This action in itself is an achievement and a step forward in the march of national action in Sudan. And the DNG now has its constitution and programs for the transitional phase which will follow the regime's downfall. [passage omitted]

The claim that the Sudanese opposition lacks effectiveness in kindling the struggle against the regime can be replied to. The opposition abroad has succeeded in exposing the regime and its practices at all international forums, thus isolating it and exposing it to frequent condemnations, as everyone knows.

Inside the country, the struggle against the regime has never been interrupted. True, there is a blackout by the regime, which is using ugly methods, but this has not prevented the eruption of demonstrations in various cities; the closure of schools, institutes, and universities; and numerous strikes staged by various groups like doctors and railroad workers. The most recent was the farmers' strike. They refused to grow wheat. The authorities admitted it. This is in addition to the recent al-Qadarif uprising, the events witnessed by the Darfur area and south Darfur, and the repeated attempts by the Armed Forces to topple the regime. This was followed by executions carried out at random, resulting in the martyrdom of scores of honorable people. And the campaigns of arrest and liquidation against the other regular armed forces and the civil service, and the displacement of workers and employees have not stopped. Recently, the regime prevented imams of the mosques from addressing worshippers, confiscating a number of mosques. What does all this mean? The state of emergency continues, a curfew is still in force, and gatherings are banned. Despite all this, I have no doubt whatsoever

that we will topple this regime, which has failed in almost everything. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] You have, on several occasions, called for a national constitutional conference to resolve outstanding issues obstructing the democratic march. What is the right time for convening the conference, and how will the mechanism of adopting resolutions be determined? Which parties are entitled to participate in the conference?

[Al-Mirghani] Actually we did not just call for a national constitutional conference to discuss outstanding issues. The idea of convening this conference is ours. In fact this idea is still the most important pillar of the agreement we signed with Colonel John Garang in Addis Ababa on 16 November 1988. And if the Front's sinister coup had not taken place, today we would have been celebrating the fourth anniversary of peace in Sudan.

You ask about the best time for convening the conference, I tell you: today, not tomorrow. As for the procedures concerning the adoption of resolutions, it is a procedural question which the conference participants are entitled to decide as they see fit. We believe that the Front party will oppose the constitutional conference and refuse to recognize the existence of other political forces. They invited the [Sudanese People's Liberation] Movement [SPLM] in Abuja to share power between the Front and the SPLM, but the SPLM is aware of the weight of the political forces in Sudan. In fact they offered to merge the Front and the SPLM into one organization. At any rate, as I said, arranging the national constitutional conference is a matter for those responsible for convening it. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] What did your visits to a number of Arab states achieve? What is the extent of the damage inflicted on your country's relations with these states as a result of the regime's policies and positions, and do you believe the rift can be mended?

[Al-Mirghani] Our tours of the Arab states were aimed primarily at emphasizing the depth of the ties with the Sudanese people. We also wished to make a distinction between what the Sudanese people harbor toward these states and their peoples—namely ties of brotherhood, amity, cohesion, and unity—and the spite and evil which the Front's government harbors toward these fraternal states.

We succeeded in restoring this bond and in consolidating the conditions of the Sudanese working in these states. We realized that the leaders of these states differentiate between the Sudanese people and their noble stances and the ruling Al-Turabi front.

We believe that the rift in these relations will be easy to mend once the Front's regime has been removed and once Sudan recovers its dignity and freedom.

[Ahmad] There are warnings and hints from numerous sources regarding the possibility of international intervention in Sudan. What is your position in this connection?

[Al-Mirghani] In our view, the cries for international intervention did not come from a vacuum. And it was the Front's regime which paved the way and provided the opportunities for it, because it violated human freedoms and was condemned in the UN General Assembly as a result. It also escalated the war in the south, turning it into a religious war. This is in addition to its contempt for international changes and its refusal to recognized democratic pluralism. What is worse is its practice of violence in the form of providing shelter and training [for terrorists] and exporting violence to other states. All this prepared a climate and foundations for international intervention. And to prevent this, the way out is to convene a national constitutional conference for the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Do senior leaders of the party face harassment from the regime? Are there any prisoners who belong to the party? Have international human rights organizations been asked to intervene to secure their release?

[Al-Mirghani] Yes, our party leaders inside the country are experiencing all forms of repression, torture, and maltreatment. Suffice it to say that Sayyid Ahmad Husayn, the party's secretary general, was arrested several times, and accusations were leveled at him. Amd Mirghani 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman is still being exposed to various forms of physical and psychological torture. Hundreds of other party leaders have not been been spared the regime's harm. And the regime continues to pursue these leaders, even in the provinces. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

'Arafat Briefs Ben Ali on Developments in Peace Talks

LD0908205193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Today at noon at Carthage palace, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member. Following the meeting, President 'Arafat made a statement in which he expressed his happiness over this good meeting and talks he had with the president during this important political time, which the Palestinian issue is going through in particular, and the Arab region in general, especially after Mr. Christopher's tour to the region.

'Arafat said: I have briefed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the Palestinian paper that was submitted to the U.S. secretary of state, explaining all its angles, and on the talks that took place recently between the Palestinian and American delegations in Jerusalem and the importance of the

proposals that have been presented. He stressed the importance of Jerusalem, as it is the main point and a vital axis vis-a-vis our moves, emphasizing again that Jerusalem is not only a Palestinian issue, but a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] added that his talks with the president also touched on ways of getting the peace talks out of the impasse by establishing further contacts with all sides so we could actually reach basic realities by which we will achieve the just comprehensive peace according to the concepts started at the Madrid conference: land for peace, implementation of the Resolutions 242 and 338—which mean withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem—and achieving the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and security for the entire region. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Addresses Expatriates' Meeting

LD0908123793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpt] At the request of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Hamed Karoui opened the annual meeting of Tunisians living abroad this morning in Tunis. In a speech he made on the occasion, Mr. Hamed Karoui reaffirmed that this meeting is regarded as an occasion to bolster relations between the homelend and its emigrant sons. He added that the emigrants enjoy distinguished care by virtue of living away from the homeland. He said that Tunisia, since the [1987] transformation, has been providing special care for its emigrants so as to strengthen the link between them and the homeland, and that this desire has been translated into initiatives that covered all spheres. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Announces New Appointments

LD0608184893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister announced that the head of state had decided to appoint Mrs. Naziha Mezhoud as minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of women's and family affairs, in place of Mrs. Nebiha Gueddana, and to appoint Mr. Kamel Sassi as secretary of state to the Minister of Social Affairs.

Kuwait

Attempt To Smuggle 'Sensitive' Maps to U.S. Thwarted

JN0908141293 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 20

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti security authorities have thwarted an attempt by a U.S.-bound Arab to smuggle out sensitive maps showing military posts and oil wells, along with a good number of classified documents.

According to a customs officer at the Kuwaiti al-Shu'aybah Port, the documents were concealed in a consignment of 23 cardboard cases destined for the United States. The shipment also included Iraqi political books. [passage omitted]

Minister Outlines Government Information Policy

JN0608181893 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 25 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Minister for Information, Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah, speaking at the diwaniyah [information open discussion] of Deputy Dr. Nasir al-Sane, said that Kuwait will be vigilant against a proliferation in newspapers.

The country cannot afford to have a multiplicity of news-carriers and will do whatever is necessary to prevent a Lebanon-like, civil war-causing overgrowth in dailies, he said. If things were left to him, he would wind up all the current newspapers, he added.

Shaykh Sa'ud, outlining the proposed future information policy of the government, said the ministry is contemplating publishing a 'people's paper' in collaboration with the National Assembly. Television, the government was convinced, was a popular medium. An all-day TV channel transmitting news-related programmes will soon be established to add to the available fare, he said.

The success of KTV's channels was reflected through the latest figures which showed that 30 per cent of all citizens and expatriates watched national telecasts, the minister explained. Kuwait has reached an agreement with Egypt to transmit Kuwaiti programmes there, he said. Kuwaiti information personnel will sent to Cairo for training for the purpose. The ministry is resolutely facing the misinformation campaigns from various foreign powers, the minister said, adding that the London-based Arabic programmes were particularly antagonistic.

An information office in Egypt, essential to serve the nation's interests, has been set up, he said. Similar centres are to follow in the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The ministry of information has been rebuilt to 30 per cent of its pre-war capacity, the minister said, adding that he hoped to achieve full operability by the first quarter of next year.

Dr. al-Sane agreed with Shaykh Sa'ud that more symposiums were needed to disseminate information to the people and accord to them their legitimate share of nation-building responsibility.

He also hailed the ministry's persistent efforts to get the information channels working to full capacity after the destruction that came with invasion and the continued disinformation that inimical forces are still carrying on.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Approves Ban on Chemical Weapons Development

LD0908205493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 9 Aug [dateline as received]—Under the chairmanship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, the Council of Ministers held its weekly session this afternoon of Monday, 9 August 93, at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

The Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

After a quick review of the political and security reports, and foremost the ones concerning the regrettable developments in the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the faltering peace negotiations, the custodian of the two holy mosques talked about his impressions and expectations concerning all current conditions at the Arab level, with a careful explanation of the nature of the period through which the Arab and Islamic nation had been passing. [passage omitted]

The information minister said that the custodian of the two holy mosques also briefed the Cabinet on the content of the letter he received from Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah which was delivered by 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Atiqi, the Kuwaiti emir adviser, and which falls within the framework of continuous and everlasting cooperation between the kingdom and the GCC. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet then took up the other subjects on the agenda and these include:

1. Approval of the agreement on banning the development, storage and use of chemical weapons, the destruction of those weapons as per the formula attached to the decision. A royal decree has been drawn up concerning this.

2. The Cabinet debated the draft project of setting up the Arab-American Chemical Investments Corporation and the Mobil company for petrochemicals. But in view of the need for a clear policy to be followed in investment in petrochemical industries by the state and by the private sector, the Cabinet decided to cancel the project. The custodian of the two holy mosques gave his directive in that a future plan should be drawn up in a manner in which the Saudi Company—ARAMCO, the Saudi private sector, and foreign companies would participate. [passage omitted]

Academics Summoned, Punished for Petitioning King

NC0908211493 Paris AFP in English 2055 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 9 (AFP)—Around 60 Saudi academics have been banned from leaving the country for demanding that King Fahd release detained members of a human rights group, according to the London-based Liberty organisation.

Liberty, which describes itself as a human rights group for the Muslim world, said Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz summoned ten of the 60 professors to his office at the weekend "to tell them the king was angry with them because of the letter they recently sent to him."

They were told they had been banned from travelling overseas, and that they would be "appropriately" punished if they failed to apologise to the king and withdraw their demands within 24 hours.

In the letter to the king, the academics called for the immediate release of 21 of their colleagues, including a founding member of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), an Islamic human rights group that was banned after it was established in May, and two of his colleagues.

They also asked King Fahd to remove restrictions on founding members of the CDLR, who have been dismissed from their jobs, banned from practising law, and are under constant scrutiny and surveillance.

Many of the detained are academics, including Muhammad al-Mas'ari, lecturer in physics at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh and CDLR spokesman, 'Abdallah al-Hamid, Professor of Arabic at Imam University in Riyadh and CDLR founding member, and 'Ali Mahmud, professor of medicine at King Sa'ud University.

Others are religious leaders.

Liberty called for international pressure for the release of the detainees and "the improvement of the human rights record in Saudi Arabia."

Yemen

Presidential Council Discusses Unifying Defense Ministry

JN0908164493 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, has presided over a Presidential Council meeting attended by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and Defense Minister Staff Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir.

The council discussed several issues relating to development and national construction efforts.

The council discussed the subject of reorganizing the Armed Forces and developing the structure of the Defense Ministry, reorganizing and unifying it to bolster defensive capabilities and carry out the national objective of building modern and advanced Yemeni Armed Forces able to carry out all national missions and duties assigned to them.

The Presidential Council asked the government to expedite the adoption of necessary steps to implement the Parties and Political Organizations Law No. 66 of 1991, and to implement Law No. 67 of 1991 on service in the Armed Forces, concerning banning party activities within the Armed and Security Forces, in implementation of Article 58 of the Law on Service in the Armed and Security Forces.

Minister on Jihad Fugitives, Protection for Oil Firms

PM0908150493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Interior Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Jihad Fugitives Penetrated Army's Cordon, Moved to al-Jawf"]

[Excerpts] London—Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Yahya al-Mutawakkil has admitted that the seven fugitives who escaped from the central al-Mansurah prison in Aden and who belong to the outlawed Jihad organization in Yemen are currently in al-Jawf Governorate. He said they managed to escape from the cordon imposed by units from the Army and the security forces two days ago around Murad village while they were seeking protection from a Murad tribe leader in Ma'rib Governorate. The governorate's tribes told them to surrender to the security forces or leave the governorate.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Mutawakkil said that the tribes refuse to shelter them, but allow them to pass through their areas without reporting them, following an old tradition.

He pointed out that conditions of the desert environment facilitate the fugitives' task of moving from one governorate to another at night. But security informers are pursuing them to arrest them. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni interior minister revealed that a plan for permanent security arrangements will be implemented this month with a view to protecting the oil companies operating in Yemen and their foreign experts. This plan has been prepared by the Interior Ministry in agreement with the Defense and Oil and Mineral Resources Ministries. He added that these arrangements will provide protection for them in their working sites and for their employees during their movements between the oilfields and the companies' offices. [passage omitted]

Arab League Envoy Denies Kuwaitis Held Captive

JN0808061793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has affirmed that it is not holding any Kuwaitis and that what is being propagated by the rulers imposed on Kuwait and some trumpets is purely for exposed political ends. In a statement to the Voice of the Arabs, Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, said that those leaders have for some time been launching anti-Iraqi statements to reshuffle cards, cover up the crimes in Kuwait, and to maintain the blockade against our people. He added: We in Iraq believe that it is a pan-Arab duty that the Arab nation and sisterly countries take a principled, clear stand toward the aggression against Iraq and to immediately break the unjust blockade so that the Iraqi people would not feel bitter over the Arab silence toward the blockade.

Nabil Najm affirmed that Iraq is cooperating effectively with the United Nations and inspection teams, and that the United Nations and the Security Council are required to lift the blockade fully and without delay in accordance with relevant resolutions. He referred to the negative impact of the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people as a result of food and medicine shortages. He explained that Iraq has achieved a great miracle by reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggression, relying on its own resources despite the continued and intensified three-year blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

Opposition 'Counter-Forces' Issue Statement on Kuwait

JN0508141093 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 5, INA—A group of Iraqi personalities in Europe presenting themselves as counter-forces to the "Iraqi opposition", funded by the West and some Arab regimes connected with it, have issued a statement confirming that Kuwait is an inseparable part of the Iraqi soil, and lauding steadfastness of the people of Iraq and the miraculous work of reconstruction and building. The statement carries the signature of 100 Iraqi figures.

The statement, published in the London-based AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, said historically and geographically, Kuwait was part of Iraq cut off by the British scissors in response to colonialistic interests and schemes in order to impose a condition of abnormal besiege on Iraq's looking on the Arab Gulf.

The statement has also made it clear that the first legislative council in Kuwait, and in its attempt to remove the historical damage inflicted on Iraq, adopted in 1939 a resolution to accede to Iraq, but al-Sabah ruling family responded to that by dissolving the council and annulling the resolution in compliance with orders from the then British high commissioner.

The statement has held the former Iraqi governments responsible for delaying Kuwait's return to Iraq or joining it through a special political link. It said that delay was the reason why Iraq was now paying the tax of aggression.

The statement has further considered that all chapters of the aggression and its realities have proved anew that the strategic interests and objectives of the U.S. and the West in region are in unison with those of the Zionist entity, which has placed at the forefront the aim of destroying any project of power or renascence in any of the Arab countries.

The Iraqi personalities statement has also expressed admiration of the Iraqi miraculous steadfastness and astonishing capability of reconstruction under the harsh circumstances of comprehensive blockade.

The statement urged the sons Iraq's Kurdistan region to refuse leaders of the rebellion in north Iraq, owing to their direct connection with the Western countries of aggression, and reminding them of the great national gains the Kurds in Iraq had obtained in comparison with the condition of the Kurds in the neighbouring countries.

Saudi, Kuwaiti 'Facilities' to Allied Aircraft Protested

Sorties Flown 2,3 Aug

JN0608114493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to offer facilities to the hostile U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace.

A letter of protest to the Arab League secretary general said that on 2-3 August, these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 149 aggressive sorties.

The letter said the continued violation of Iraq's airspace poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's permanent Arab League representative asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states.

'Violations' Reported 4 Aug

JN0808121193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has again protested to the Arab League the continued provision of facilities by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French planes in their continuous violation of the Iraqi airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, noting that this activity seriously threatens Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a memorandum of protest to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative explained that on 4 August, U.S., British, and French planes carried out 52 hostile air sorties during which they violated the Iraqi airspace.

The Iraqi representative enclosed memorandum of protest with a list detailing the violations and asked the Arab League secretary general to distribute it among the Arab League member states.

Sorties Continue 5,6 Aug

JN1008111793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has once again protested the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate Iraqi airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

A letter from Iraq's permanent Arab League representative to the Arab League secretary general said that on 5 and 6 August, the U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 169 aggressive sorties.

The Arab League permanent representative asked that the letter, which includes clear details of these violations, be circulated to Arab League member states.

Unified National Congress Calls for Saddam Trial

NC0608191993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1723 GMT 6 Aug 93

["Text" of press statement issued by the Presidential and Executive Councils of the Unified Iraqi National Congress on 3 August—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Presidential and Executive Councils of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] held their fifth joint session at the UINC headquarters in Salah al-Din, Irbil Governorate, between 31 July and 3 August 1993.

Deliberations and discussions were held with a deep sense of responsibility and concern. The meeting discussed the political and field situations and the means of strengthening action and tackling the shortages and gaps. It also discussed the internal, Arab, and international developments and their effects on our people's course of confronting the dictatorial regime.

The regime reviewed the endeavors made by the UINC to boost its position at the Arab, regional, and international levels, particularly in the wake of the UINC delegation's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its contacts with the Syrian Arab Republic, the State of Kuwaiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Republic of Turkey and the talks held by its delegations in the United States, Britain, France, the United Nations, and with other international organizations.

The meeting discussed the UINC efforts to call for the trial and [word indistinct] of Saddam Husayn, particularly since the indictment charges have been completed and widely distributed in the Arab world and the world. They decided to intensify and continue the efforts to mobilize international support for this important project.

In light of the discussions of these issues, an intensive program was drawn up for the subsequent political action that aims to gain more Arab, Islamic, and international backing for the Iraqi cause, to tighten the grip on the regime, and to oppose its efforts to normalize its relations.

The requirements for escalating the field operations and expanding them inside the homeland were also discussed, particularly with regard to strengthening the steadfastness and jihad of our people in southern Iraq and to drawing up the appropriate plans for this for the sake of toppling the dictatorial regime.

The meeting noted that the relief work undertaken by a number of international organizations has stalled. The relief work was not at the needed level in the first place. Relief must reach the sons of the people directly in implementation of Resolution 706.

The conferees discussed in particular the deteriorating economic situation in Iraq's Kurdistan. They called for continuing the relief work and for reviving and developing the economy in the region in cooperation with the government of Iraq's Kurdistan.

The meeting deliberated at length the consequences of the economic sanctions. It noted that the people are paying a heavy price for them. Hence, the UINC calls on the United Nations to provide food, medicine, and other basic commodities; to distribute them to our people directly; to pressure the regime to implement Resolution 706 and 712 and lift its siege of Kurdistan and southern Iraq, particularly the marshlands; to implement Resolution 688; and to guarantee respect for human rights and to send observers to ensure that this is carried out.

The meeting calls on the United Nations to speed up spending of the funds allocated for the purchase of food and medicine. It also calls on the United Nations to exempt the areas not subject to the authority of Saddam's regime from the international sanctions imposed on it.

The meeting condemned the Baghdad regime's withdrawal of the 25-dinar bills from circulation, which caused great damage to our Iraqi sons, especially in Iraqi Kurdistan, in addition to damaging Iraq's monetary credibility. The UINC declares that it will restore the 25-dinar bills after the downfall of Saddam's regime.

It condemned the terrorist and barbaric campaign launched by the regime against all our people, especially those in the south and the marshlands, which caused thousands of the Arab tribes to flee amid extremely

harsh conditions. It criticized the international community's silence over this campaign and called for quick action to aid the displaced ones, deter the regime from continuing its repressive campaign, apply Resolution 688 with the same enthusiasm with which the other resolutions were implemented, and prevent the shelling of civilians and dams that caused the water to stop flowing and destroyed the environment.

The conferees appealed to neighboring Arab and Islamic states to support the Iraqi people's struggle and assist them.

The meeting discussed the various aspects of the Congress' media activity and the necessary practical steps to develop it and improve its performance to guarantee its access to the various categories of the people through the various mass media.

The meeting also discussed the efforts and the continuing meetings with certain Iraqi opposition parties, reaffirming the Congress' commitment to its basic principles and insistence on safeguarding the unity of the Iraqi opposition. It called for arranging meetings with the powers and figures that are still outside its framework and for showing preparedness to cooperate and work with these powers according to the common basics and the established national principles to enhance and consolidate the national struggle to overthrow the dictator regime and safeguard the popular and territorial sovereignty and unity of the Iraqi republic.

The meeting discussed the idea of the interim government and relevant issues and decided to make further contacts with regional and Arab states in this connection.

The meeting received with regret and concern reports about the recent Iranian military operations in wide areas in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Governorates. It decided to form a delegation to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran to contain the problem in a manner that consolidates the historic relations between the two states and peoples and protects the sovereignty of the Iraqi Republic and the rights of the two states. It called for resolving outstanding issues with a spirit of fraternity, understanding, and solidarity through dialogue and negotiations.

The Congress session coincided with the third anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, the day that brought the biggest calamity ever to our nation, people, and the Iraqi people as well as to Arab solidarity. The meeting reiterated its respect for the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait and its eagerness to bolster fraternal relations between the two peoples.

The conferees condemned the continuous Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and voiced solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people and support for their heroic resistance and their lawful right to liberate their land.

The meeting noted with concern attempts by certain companies to conclude contracts with the Baghdad government, noting that this would strengthen the regime's tyranny against and persecution of the people. It affirmed that the Iraqi people are not bound by such contracts and agreements.

The meeting called on key figures, men of religion, orators, thinkers, and cultured people to make more efforts to sensitize the people and urge them to revolt against the ruling regime.

Addressing the men of the Armed Forces, the meeting called on the soldiers to perform their sacred national duty and to shoulder their historic responsibility to join the ranks of the people and pounce on the regime to safeguard their dignity and reputation.

The meeting confirmed the general pardon included in the Congress' indictment statement against Saddam Husayn and the pillars of his regime. It called on all those involved with the regime to dissociate themselves from it, reiterating its rejection of the spirit of vengeance and mass punishment and its commitment to the sovereignty of the law and the Constitution.

The conferees appealed to the Iraqi opposition powers and figures to join efforts, close ranks, and escalate the struggle to realize our people's goal of getting rid of the dictator regime.

Letter to UN's Ghali Protests Iranian Attacks in North

JN0708064893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Letter from Nizar Hamdun, permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali dated 2 August]

[Text] A letter dated 2 August 1993 addressed to the UN secretary general from the Iraqi permanent representative to the UN:

Upon instructions from my government, and subsequent to my earlier letters, the latest of which is included in document No. AO/26197, I would like to inform you that the Iranian Armed Forces have carried out the following acts of aggression in the northern area:

1. On 20 July 1993, a Khomeyni Guard force entered (Shibilin) and Shiwakal villages in the Choarta sector. The force blew up a school. As a result of a clash between this force and the population of the area, a member of the Khomeyni Guard was killed and four were captured. They were evacuated to al-Sulaymaniyah, where they were handed to UN representatives. The Iranian force returned to Iran. The Iranian forces based in Bana threatened to shell al-Sulaymaniayah if the prisoners are not released and immiedlately returned to Iran.

2. At 1000 on 22 July 1993, Iranian forces shelled the al-Sulaymaniah area with katyusha rockets. The shelling lasted for three hours.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly protests these fresh Iranian acts of aggression, which represent a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and blatant intervention in its domestic affairs. It also condemns the Iranian regime's insistence on violating UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq asks your excellency to intervene to prevent Iran side from repeating such aggressive acts, which conflict with the rules of international law and the UN Charter. It fully reserves the right to respond by using any appropriate means to safeguard Iraq's legitimate rights.

I would be grateful if you would ensure the circulation of this letter as a UN Security Council document.

Official Urges Pressure on Iran To Release POW's, Aircraft

JN0908123093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, has urged the Popular Islamic Conference Organization as well as the forces, parties, figures, and humanitarian organizations in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world to exert all available pressure on the Iranian regime to release tens of thousands of Iraqi POW's and the Iraqi aircraft held by the Iranian regime.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said President Saddam Husayn's speech on the Great Victory Day on 8 August, which notes the Iranian regime's responsibility for and insistence on holding the Iraqi POW's despite Iraq's initiative releasing all Iranian POW's, and which also notes this regime's continued holding of Iraqi aircraft sent to Iran under the circumstances of the immortal Mother of Battles, makes the Arab and Islamic organizations, forces, national and pan-Arab parties, and humanitarian organizations aware of their responsibility to boost their demand that the Iranian regime should release more than 20,000 Iraqi POW's, now that Iraq had released all Iranian POW's. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi official explained that the Iranian regime's insistence on holding Iraqi POW's and not returning Iraqi aircraft conflicts with the principles of good-neighborliness with Iraq, and means that this regime is joining the colonialist and Zionist forces in their conspiracy against Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

Radio Urges Iran To Stop Shelling Iraqi Kurdistan

NC0608200893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1716 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Proceeding from our firm belief in dialogue and peaceful coexistence and in keeping the dangers of wars and conflicts in the region at bay, the government of the Kurdistan region has sent a message of peace to the Islamic Republic of Iran's government through the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC]. The government of the region asked the UINC to send a memorandum to the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked it to put an end to the attacks and violations its forces are carrying out against the border regions inside Iraq's Kurdistan region. The region's government also asked the UINC to send a delegation to Tehran to hold talks with the Iranian officials and find the appropriate means for ending the Iranian attacks on the border regions of Iraq's Kurdistan.

The moderate stand of the region's government regarding the Iranian shelling of the border regions indicates that the regional government never wanted to terminate the bilateral relations of the two sides. Without a doubt, escalation does not serve any side. In addition, restoring relations between the governments of the Kurdistan region and the Islamic Republic of Iran to their normal state serves not only the interests of the two sides. It goes beyond that and positively affects the establishment of stability and security in one of the regions of the world that needs it most.

Whatever the justification for the escalation, it remains deficient before the readiness of our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan to accept the principle of peaceful coexistence with the other countries in the region, particularly the Arab, Iranian, and Turkish people, who are bound to our Kurdish people by ties of religion, neighborliness, and history. At any rate, the excuses and maneuvers from the Iranian Government, which revolve around the presence of the Iranian Kurdish opposition in the areas that were shelled, put before us the following question: Why don't the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran shell the border areas that fall outside the Kurdistan region, knowing that the Iranian opposition is based in these areas and carries out operations against the Islamic Republic by using large-caliber weapons such as tanks and artillery? Why don't the Iranian forces shell these regions continuously?

Finally, we hope our neighbor Iran will review its evaluation of its relations with the Kurdish people and their regional government in Iraqi Kurdistan. Undoubtedly, security and stability cannot be established in the region by ignoring the legitimate national rights of our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan, whose case continues to bleed. The Kurdish people expect the neighboring countries to extend a helping hand of support and backing, not to shell and demolish the homes of the oppressed Kurdish people.

Regime Said Preparing To Attack Iran at U.S. Demand

JN0708194893 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] A responsible source of the Islamic revolution mujahidin has revealed information that a U.S. working paper has reached the despicable tyrant's regime through Jordan. The source added that the working paper stipulates that the Saddam regime must be committed to recognizing the pseudostate of the Zionist entity and again to launching a war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in exchange for promises to lift the economic siege imposed because of the crimes of the Saddamist regime of aggression.

The source said that despite the fact that the Saddamist regime of crime has not yet answered the U.S. working paper, its effects are now appearing on the Iraqi scene. The agent of the great Satan has begun to deploy military units in the southern region. Armored divisions and special forces, equipped with self-propelled guns, in addition to the so-called al-'Abid forces from the Saddamist guard arrived in al-Basrah. The forces were deployed between the al-Salam Shirk and the Jazirat Salih [names as heard] along the southern borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran. They also were deployed [words indistinct] and the [word indistinct] region. Officers on leave have been recalled, leaves in the aforementioned formations have been canceled, and raises in salaries of military men, especially NCO's, have been raised.

Relief Official Says Iran Refusing To Admit More Refugees

NC0608184593 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 6 (AFP)—Iran is refusing to admit any more of the 5,000 Iraqi Shiites hiding in the blistering heat of the Iraqi marshlands, many of whom are in "very critical" condition, an Iraqi opposition leader said Friday.

Hamid Bayyati, head of the relief section of the [Unified] Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of opposition groups, said that the Iraqis, fleeing persecution by President Saddam Husayn, were being barred from entering neighbouring Iran and were in danger of dying from cholera and typhoid.

"Iran is refusing to take in any more refugees," from the marshes which are inhabited mostly by Shiite Muslims, he said.

Iran last month reported that more than 2,000 Iraqis fleeing army attacks on the marshes had sought refuge in its territory.

Bayyati, speaking in this town in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, said Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the INC-aligned Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, was in Tehran to negotiate with Iranian leaders on allowing the refugees in.

But he said he held out little hope that the Iranian authorities would have a change of heart.

"If they are forced to stay longer, many of them will die from diseases like cholera and typhoid," he added.

They have no protection against the sun in the marshes between al-Basrah and al-'Amarah, where daytime temperatures in August regularly exceeds 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). Food and medicine rarely reach the southern border area, Bayyati said.

He said many of the Iraqis had arrived in the marshlands on the border with Iran in the last three months, fleeing renewed military action by Iraqi troops.

Bayyati urged the United Nations and the international community to force Iraq to adopt U.N. Security Council Resolution 688 regarding humanitarian aid in Iraq.

A British member of parliament called this week for "an international response" to what she said were Iraqi attempts to wipe out Shia Muslims in the southern marshes.

Conservative MP Emma Nicholson said southern Iraq "has been totally wrecked with the deliberate Iraqi drainage of the marshes".

"There are acute shortages of food, medicine and drinking water," she said.

Kurdistan Council Head Thanks Saddam, Vows Struggle

JN1008111593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a thank-you cable from Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, head of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan, on the occasion of awarding the council members the High Order of Merit.

The cable says: Your excellency's noble gesture toward the members of the Executive Council will give them an additional incentive to pursue the struggle to expel agents and traitors from the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan and purge it from their filth and that of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance lying in wait for us everywhere and at all times.

Mr. Leader President: We will certainly live up to your expectations and victory will be our lot while shame and disgrace will be the lot of enemies, traitors, and coveters.

Ramadan Receives French Friendship Society Delegation

JN0908163193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, vice president and Revolution Command Council member, has declared that the 30-state aggression on Iraq targeted civilian installations geared to the well-being and welfare of the population. During a meeting with Mr. al-Hashemi al-Bannani, head of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society, Ramadan said that knocking out such facilities is an offense against human rights. He stressed that the U.S. Administration and the allied Western governments have been shown to have a mercenary approach to human rights. Ramadan said the U.S. Administrations' idea of democracy, freedom, and human rights is that the countries around the world must tow the line of the authoritarian, imperialist policies of the United States. Any genuine expression of independence and freedom, he added, is perceived by the Americans to be at cross purposes with their imperialist concept of democracy. He emphasized that retaining the sanctions; denying children milk, medicines, and food; and exposing 18 million Iraqis to disease and death are manifestations of an inhumane U.S. policy antagonistic to independence, democracy, and a decent existence for other nations. Led by their heroic leader Saddam Husayn, the Iraqis who have beaten conspiracy and aggression and their instigators, are bound to emerge as clear victors. Righteousness will prevail at the hands of the Iraqi people after injustice is routed so that humanity can live by the principles of freedom, independence, and justice, Ramadan asserted.

Al-Hashemi al-Bannani termed the siege on the Iraqi people the greatest crime of the age. World public opinion, he said, has now unmasked the premeditated aggression that the United States led against Iraq. Hostile media have failed to mislead world opinion after facts became known and the United Nations came under the bellicose policies of the United States, al-Bannani declared.

His delegation includes (Alice Tazray), head of the Society for Saving Iraqi Children in France, and (Jacques Loke), a representative of the Pharmacists Without Frontiers organization.

U.S., Allies Said Seeking To Entrench Deployment in North

JN1008090493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—In its editorial today, BABIL accuses the U.S. Administration and its allies of seeking persistently to entrench international deployment in northern Iraq.

The paper says the statement made by the French Foreign Ministry about the recent Iranian aggression against northern Iraq is part of a colonialist approach adopted by Washington.

A spokeswoman for the French Foreign Ministry had expressed concern over the Iranian military action in northern Iraq, saying this could pose a threat to humanitarian organizations operating in that region.

The paper regrets the fact that Paris is only concerned about the humanitarian aspects of the aggression, overlooking the threat to the sovereignty of an independent, UN member state, as well as the threat this Iranian action could pose to regional and world stability, security, and peace.

BABIL says the French Foreign Ministry has made a fair statement that has a deceptive purpose. The statement is within the context of a feverish drive, led by Washington, to entrench international deployment in northern Iraq to serve the purposes and interests of the aggression states and their conspiratorial schemes.

BABIL wonders why Paris and other Western capitals have not condemned the Iranian aggression and previous military operations against defenseless civilians, which are a blatant violation of international law. Washington and its allies in Paris and London use international law as a cover to achieve suspect purposes and to mock and fool others.

Peres Says PLO Rift Due to Imminent Decision

TA1008062593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] As your deputy Yosi Beilin says, is there really a possibility that Israel might talk directly with the PLO if that organization fulfills several Israeli conditions?

[Peres] There is no need; there is a Palestinian delegation with which we are negotiating. According to all the signs, the delegation will most probably remain intact. There is no reason now to return to procedural matters. I think the time will come when the PLO will also have no choice but to turn over a new leaf, and instead of being a terrorist organization it will become a regular political party, unarmed and no longer aspiring to using arms. But there is still time, that is not the current issue on the agenda. The issue now is how to ties things up. We have gone a very long way, but differences remain. Still, I believe they can be bridged. To me, that is the main issue.

[Einstein] As an observer on the sidelines, how do you see the dispute between PLO-Tunis and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks?

[Peres] It is somewhat exaggerated to call me an observer on the sidelines. We are part of the large storm sweeping both peoples. It is easy to dismiss the other side or another nation, but there are phenomena, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist actions, which I denounce wholeheartedly. Nevertheless, I definitely understand that there are differences of opinion on the Palestinian side, just as we have differences among us. It would be unnatural if everybody woke up in the morning and shouted yes. I do not think that something like that can be expected in the coming days.

[Einstein] According to the reports on that dispute, the members of the delegation present a tougher line than PLO-Tunis. Perhaps it is more in our interest to talk with those sitting in Tunis?

[Peres] First of all, the members of the delegation are not taking independent positions. Even based on that report, the delegation presented the paper as dictated by Tunis. Therefore, the problem is not who has moderate opinions, but also who dictates policy. The truth is that from time to time they exchange positions, and I think the crisis this time was over decisionmaking and dispatching decisions. That is also the reason for the tension inside the delegation. I do not say that in a derogatory sense—we have to take care not to denigrate unnecessarily—but there is a high level of tension there. We are drawing close to some decision. Each side is extremely concerned something might be missed, conceded unnecessarily, and that they might receive less than deserved. This time, public opinion—Palestinian and Israeli—is very actively participating in the negotiations. We can see that on the faces of the people. We saw it yesterday in East Jerusalem. I hope—in fact, more than just hope—that they will issue a clear-cut and correct decision because I do not see where the sides—the Palestinian as well—have to turn to. Everything except the peace process is so gloomy, not reassuring, so isolating, that I think everybody will continue the negotiating process.

Baraq, Lubrani on Lebanese Army Deployment

TA1008090393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq believes that the terrorists' scope of activity is decreasing. He is convinced that in the end, the security services will have the upper hand in the struggle against terrorism.

Concerning southern Lebanon, Baraq expressed doubt regarding Lebanese soldiers deployed in the area and their ability to foil Hizballah's operations. Meanwhile, the chief of staff said, the situation established as a result of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation is holding, and if it does not hold, we will know what to do.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this morning, the chief of staff visited the military induction center at the start of the August conscription, which is the largest in the IDF's history.

Regarding the burial of the soldier Lev Pisahov, Chief of Staff Baraq said the IDF will make sure that whoever made the mistake will not be allowed to repeat it.

Meanwhile, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in southern Lebanon and head of the delegation to the talks with the Lebanese, believes that the Lebanese Army's deployment is an important first step. However, it is difficult to know how things will develop, because what is involved is a small number of soldiers who have deployed in a number of villages not very close to the security strip. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that Lubrani spoke in Metulla to members of a United Jewish Appeal delegation which is visiting the north today. He told them that he does not detect a specific reorganization in Hizballah ranks. Although they do possess weapons and equipment, their activity depends on those who direct them.

Four Hamas Members Sentenced for Murder

TA1008112993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] The four members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] band who murdered Nissim Toledano, Mordekhay Yisra'el, and Daniyel Hazut have each been sentenced to three consecutive prison terms and another 40 years' imprisonment. Earlier, they were convicted of the murders and two other attempted murders when they tried to run over soldiers at a pickup station and attempted to murder policeman Shalom Gueta. Mira Amsalem, our correspondent for legal affairs, reports that the judges said there are no words to describe the

gravity and cruelty of the crimes. The judges also said that it is a terrible thing that the four have not expressed any regret or sorrow for their actions, but have even justified the murder of innocent people with the Koran in their hands.

Hundreds Protest Outside U.S. Embassy

TA0908190793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Several hundred settlers and right-wing members staged a demonstration on the Tel Aviv promenade opposite the U.S. Embassy building a short while ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the demonstrators called out slogans denouncing the government and the plans to withdraw from the Golan Heights and to negotiate with the PLO.

The demonstration ended a short while later, and the demonstrators returned to their protest encampment in the Charles Clor Garden on the beach in Tel Aviv.

[A similar report by Alon Ben-David on Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 9 August adds that arriving on the site in a show of "solidarity," "Likud Faction Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu called on the prime minister not to allow the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to return to Israel at the end of their deportation terms. According to Netanyahu, the deportees' imminent return will contribute to a deterioration in the state of security in Israel."

[Ben-David adds that "the settlers plan to protest on the site for the rest of the week," staging daily demonstrations in different locations.]

IMI Introduces New Assault Rifle

TA1008105193

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 10 August on page 11 of the weekly economic MAMON supplement by Arye Egozi features a new rifle introduced by the Israel Military Industries [IMI]. Technical data is reported on the newly developed "assault rifle as yet unnamed." The report says that the rifle will "serve the regular rifleman, function as a day or night rifle, a sniper rifle, a rifle for the commander, and an anti-terror rifle." This diversity is possible because, in fact, it will be "a series of rifles with interchangeable barrels of alternating lengths, and various accessories that can be connected to the basic body." According to the report, the new rifle has a 5.56mm barrel, a 30-bullet magazine, and weighs 3.5 kg. Its rate of fire is 700 bullets per minute, and it allows "80 percent accuracy in hitting a figure target at 300 meters." The upgraded model will provide "80 percent accuracy at 500 meters."

The report further says that the "shooting trials of the new rifle will begin in January 1994 and will end by the end of that year," and that the IMI director general hopes the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will buy it when the IMI begins serial production of the rifle in 1995.

U.S. Bars Sale of F-5 Jets to Indonesia

JN0808125093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian officials Saturday declined comment on a reported rejection by the U.S. government of Jordan's request for permission to sell American-made F-5 planes to Indonesia, but informed sources said the U.S. move came as no surprise.

At the same time, the sources also confirmed that Washington had released $50 million in frozen assistance to Jordan for fiscal year 1993 after formal procedures related to clearance from Congress were completed.

According to the sources, the rejection of the F-5 deal was partly based on Washington's concern for the human rights record of Indonesia and that it had no bearing on U.S.-Jordanian relations.

"We knew we were heading into trouble in Congress over the proposed sale since Washington was citing human rights concerns," said an informed Jordanian source. "But our counter-argument had been that how much human rights can anyone violate with F-5 planes."

The source, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the Kingdom filed its request to Washington for permission to sell up to four American-built F-5s to Indonesia earlier this year. One of the preconditions of the original American sales of the jets to Jordan was that the Kingdom would not resell them without Washington's approval.

The deal is estimated to be worth $25 million.

Jordan is modernising its armed forces and is seeking to update some of military equipment.

According to an unidentified State Department official quoted by Reuters, "the combination of a number of sensitive issues in this case made approval impossible... including human rights concerns in Indonesia."

No indication was available on any other considerations, however.

But the American official was also quoted as saying the department did not consider the decision a precedent and that Jordan and Indonesia could be considered favourably for transfers of U.S.- built arms at another time.

"Jordan, for no fault of its own, seems to have been caught up in the running conflict between Indonesia and the U.S. over human rights," said a diplomatic source, noting that the U.S. suspended some military cooperation with Jakarta in 1991 after an incident where Indonesian security forces opened fire on a crowd of mourners.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month raised concerns about the human rights situation in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony taken over by Indonesia.

Jakarta counters charges of human rights violations by insisting that it should not be judged by Western principles and ideals. it says the stability and prosperity of society as a whole is as important as the rights of individuals.

In a dispatch from Jakarta, Reuters Saturday quoted a Ministry of Defence official as saying that the government had not received formal notification of Washington's rejection of the reported Jordanian-Indonesian deal.

"As in the past, we will try not to depend on one party only," the official was quoted as saying. "If it (American rejection of the proposed sale) happens, we will make another effort."

No immediate comment was available from the Indonesian embassy in Amman.

Senior Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times declined comment on the affair.

"It is an American-Indonesian affair and I have to [as published] comment on it," said a senior member in the government of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

Meanwhile, other sources said formalities related to the release of $50 million in economic aid and military assistance to Jordan had been completed in Washington.

"We have finalised the details regarding all outstanding aid for fiscal 1992, totalling about $50 million," said one source.

The source said the administration has to provide certain certificaton to Congress before aid for fiscal 1993 could be released.

The certifications relate to Jordan's enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq and the Kingdom's contribution to the Middle East peace process.

American aid to Jordan for 1993 totals $56.8 million comprising of $15 million in economic support funds, $30 million in food assistance, and $10.8 million in military aid.

The administration has allocated $19 million—$10 million in economic support funds and $9 million in military assistance—to Jordan for fiscal 1994.

'Lukewarm' Arab Response to Attack on Lebanon Viewed

JN0708153893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Musa al-Kilani: "Who Cashes the Cheques in 'Operation Accountability?'"]

[Text] The lukewarm Arab response to last month's Israeli assault on Lebanon has only underlined the

dangerous trend in the Arab psyche that has emerged in the post-Gulf crisis era. To say the least, even editorials in the German and British press were much harsher than what we saw in the Arab media.

There are many factors that have to be kept in view while assessing the impact of the Israeli assault on Lebanon and compare it with the Jewish state's invasion of its northern neighbour in 1982.

No segment of the Lebanese population welcomed the Israelis during the 1982 operation dubbed "Galilee Safety" more than Bashir Gemayel's Falangist camp.

Syria, whose armed forces engaged the Israelis in battle before falling back to their positions in 1982, acted in a visibly more suspicious way this time when its Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' declared on July 19 that any attack against Lebanon will be considered an attack against Syria, in line with the al-Ta'if agreement to which Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was a guarantor.

But Syria failed to live up to its pledge against repeated Israeli strikes after July 19, leaving one wondering whether we heard Mr. al-Shar' right.

In 1982, Syria genuinely observed what the Israeli expert on Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, termed as "red lines" in Lebanon. This Syrian approach allowed the massacre of hundreds, if not thousands, of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps. The heavy Syrian guns which were present in Lebanon turned the other way rather than offering any protection to the Palestinians.

This time again, the Syrians proved that their military umbrella could not offer any protection to the pro-Syrian Jibril group or the pro-Iranian Hizballah let alone the half a million or so civilians who were forced to flee their homes in South Lebanon to escape the fierce Israeli assault.

A closer look at the political givens in Lebanon exposes a much sinister shape of things. As the dust settled in South Lebanon and the Israeli guns stopped barking, it became clear that Syria was among those who cashed the political benefits of Israel's "Operation Accountability" since the pointed Syrian abstention from trying to stop the Israelis from destroying Hizballah infrastructure in Lebanon enhanced the stature of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a self-restraining, far-sighted peace-maker, keen to maintain a strategic relationship with his new-found friends in Washington.

Next thing we know could even be an al-Asad visit to the U.S., given the praise that President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher heaped on the Syrian leader for his inaction in Lebanon during the Israeli assault.

It also seems that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat had either sensed or at least been tipped off since June, of the major requirements of salvaging the 21-month-old Middle East peace process through eliminating the last two key obstacles: Hamas and Hizballah.

By design or coincidence, many 'Arafat fighters had received "transfer" orders from Lebanon as early as June 6. We might never know whether this move was warranted by the austerity measures that Mr. 'Arafat has adopted in the face of dwindling Palestinian funds or was a very convenient action to get the fighters out of the way in the face of an imminent Israeli assault.

Did Iran benefit politically from the severe blow that was dealt to Hizballah?

It is clear that not many in Tehran would shed much tears over the clipped wings of Hizballah in Lebanon. A major part of the Hizballah ranks is no supporter of Iranian President Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They receive their orders from the hardline anti-Rafsanjani camp in Tehran headed by Mohtashemi, a former Iranian ambassador to Syria who moulded Hizballah in Lebanon in the late 1980s, and former Iranian parliament speaker Karrubi, who injected dogmatic extremism into the group.

No doubt, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who was present in the Syrian capital when the Arab foreign ministers met to discuss the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, took back a very relieving message to Tehran that not only a potentially explosive situation had been defused but also that the anti- Rafsanjani camp in Iran was slowly being deprived of a card that could be used to embarrass the regime and set back its efforts to improve relations with the West.

Notwithstanding the loud protestations and complaints, the Lebanese government felt relieved, just as its Syrian and Iranian counterparts did, that someone else did the job for it. For one thing, the Israeli assault cleared the way for the Lebanese army to be deployed in the south—something Beirut could not have hoped for as long as the Hizballah's firepower and popularity remained intact in the south. Any such move by the government of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri could have easily led to another civil war, pitting the army against Hizballah.

It was also a masterstroke that the Beirut government achieved by coaxing the half a million southerners to return to their shattered homes and villages, thus denying Hizballah any opportunity to use their presence in and around Beirut as a political card.

The pro-Syria Amal militia, which was engaged in a running battle with Hizballah for supremacy among Lebanese Shi'tes, should be now jubilant that the teeth of its archrival have been pulled leaving the Lebanese scene open for Amal dominance, which in turn benefits not only Damascus but also the Saudis, its bankroller.

Egypt was not about to be left on the wings as the scenario unfolded in Lebanon. Its foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, flew to Beirut a few days before the Israeli assault began in what could be nothing but an effort to snatch the Lebanese card away from the Syrians. But the efforts collapsed with the Israeli bombardment.

Many analysts see Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as a skillful manipulator of his country's public opinion. He needs domestically the image of being tough before agreeing to any deal with the Palestinians or Syrians. Otherwise, he will lose his pro- peace Labour constituenc to Shim'on Peres if not to Likud's Netanyahu. Prior to any political deal for what could be called a concession, Mr. Rabin dons his tough guy mantle as he did in December 1992 when over 400 Hamas and Jihadists were deported to Marj al-Zohour just before serious commitments given to Faysal al- Husayni.

It is the same tactic used by Mr. Rabin when he announced the total closure of the West Bank and Gaza. Mr Rabin's candid feel for the fluctuations in Israel's public opinion dictated his announcement that "military operations cannot eradicate terrorism in Lebanon. A leeway price has already been paid for those delusions."

So, we can conclude that Mr. Rabin wanted to remove a political obstacle to the peace process that neither the Lebanese nor the Syrians could remove. Mr. Rabin's statements foreshadowed Mr. Christopher's happy announcement of a major "surprise" between Syria and Israel.

But the fact remains that the Arab trauma resulting from the second Gulf war had transformed the Arab psyche in such a way to make the peoples pliable enough to accept all the new arrangements that will take place in this region.

It could be part of a divine political irony that the same anniversary of Nasser's revolution witnesses the nadir of Arab humiliation, apathy and fraternal double-crossing. The U.S. reaction to what happened in Lebanon shows that different criteria are always applied when the casualties are Bosnian Muslims or Lebanese civilians. Even at the United Nations, it transpired that its Charter is interpreted differently when the victim is a non- white, non-Anglo-Saxon, and non-Protestant.

Iranian Heavy Industry Ministry Official Pays Visit

JN0708163593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has met with an Iranian economic delegation led by Mohammad Qasem, assistant to the Iranian minister of heavy industries for export management. They discussed bilateral economic and trade relations and ways of developing and promoting them. The two sides agreed that these relations should grow and expand to realize the joint interests of the two countries. They also discussed the prospects of opening the second exhibition of Iranian industries in Amman in view of the success of the first exhibition last year. The secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade voiced Jordan's readiness to provide the means and facilities to make this fair a success.

The two sides discussed matters related to the Jordanian-Iranian joint committee and stressed the need for it to meet as soon as possible following the postponement of its meetings three months ago.

The Iranian side proposed that Jordan participates in the international fair which will be set up in Tehran next October.

Prince Hasan Returns From Qatar, Makes Statement

JN0908171393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan upon his return home this afternoon from an official two-day visit to the fraternal State of Qatar.

The visit was in response to an invitation by Qatari Heir Apparent His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah. [passage omitted].

His Highness Prince Hasan described his and his accompanying delegation's visit to Qatar, as well as his talks with the brothers there, as successful. He said that the visit was a good beginning for the two fraternal Jordanian and Qatari peoples. His highness also said he was deeply impressed by the warm reception he was accorded and by the general feeling he sensed from the brothers regarding the saddening inter-Arab relations over the past few years. His highness added that the Jordanian-Qatari talks during the visit were frank and clear and centered on various aspects of economic, political, social, security, and regional cooperation. His highness also said that he and his delegation were optimistic that a new chapter of brotherly Jordanian-Qatari relations would be opened and that the brothers in Qatar shared this desire. His highness said:

[Begin Hasan recording] I believe it is a good beginning, God willing, for the Qatari and Jordanian peoples. In fact, we touched on the regional dimension during our talks at the University of Qatar today. We also appealed to the Arab mind and conscience to respond so that we can move together, God willing, toward a new awakening within the framework we have described as security cooperation. Of course, security cooperation means all fields of cooperation, including our relationship on all educational, economic, and social levels. I also believe that our analyses of the dangers facing this region were very close. Because of their kindness, hospitality, and warm reception, God be praised, we hope to see, as a Jordanian paper said today, a small beacon in this dark night in which the Arab and Islamic nations live. When we deal with phased Arab action, we have to be patient. In order to achieve cooperation, we should stress mutual respect and listen to the other opinion in every thing. [end recording]

New Oil Well Discovered; Expected To Produce 2,000 BPD

JN0908092293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Natural Resources Authority has announced the discovery of a new oil well in the Dead Sea region, containing reasonable quantities of oil.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, the source said the well, located 5 km south of Wadi al-Mawjib, is expected to produce 2,000 barrels per day [bpd], which heralds a promising start for that region. [passage omitted]

Progress, Justice Party Rejects Confederation

JN0908093593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] In a statement yesterday, the Progress and Justice Party asserted that bringing up the question of Palestinian- Jordanian confederation at this time in particular is meant to ensnare Arab negotiators and entrench Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

The party rejected the formula of confederation altogether, whether before or after the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

Al-Majali Denies Disengagement-Confederation Link

JN1008083793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Aug 93 pp 1, 18

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has asserted that there is nothing new with regard to amending the Election Law, noting that the government adheres to the Constitution and to democracy. He added: We abide by the Constitution and it is premature to pass any judgment in this connection. He also noted that the opportunity is now available for anyone who wishes to run for the next parliamentary elections.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters yesterday evening after attending part of a meeting by the Higher Educational Council, being one of its members.

Answering a question about media reports that Jordan plans to revoke its disengagement decision [the decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank] to prepare for a confederation with the occupied West Bank, the prime minister said there is no connection between the disengagement decision and the confederation, and that what is being said about that is media talk. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood To Oppose Election Law Amendment

JN0908121093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Aug 93 p 29

[Text] Amman—The press office of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued the following statement on the dissolution of the House of Representatives and the forthcoming elections:

The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has followed with great interest local developments over the past two days and other issues related to the forthcoming legislative elections. From this premise, the Muslim Brotherhood announces the following:

1. The Muslim Brotherhood is a major and important faction in this homeland. Its members are concerned for the safety of its domestic ranks, and are worried by what disturbs its security and stability. They represent a large, effective, and important part of this beloved homeland, and it is impermissible to ignore their presence as a national force and as members of the one Jordanian family on issues dealing with the political, economic, and social aspects of this homeland's march.

2. The dissolution of the House of Representatives has come as as a surprise and an unnexpected move before the end of its term. This has happened while we seek to enhance our democratic and shura option. The dissolution of the House in this manner does not serve this option. It is a step that reminds citizens of the martial laws and the unconstitutional practises that prevailed during the era that preceded the previous legislative elections. It is also a step that will pave the way for the executive branch to pass the laws it could not pass in the presence of the House of Representatives, which is the constitutional legislative authority that represents the people. Among these laws are the temporary elections law, the sales tax law, and other laws that harm the citizen's livelihood, and whose adoption in the absence of the legislative authorities represents a retraction of the democratic and shura option.

3. While praising His Majesty King Husayn's decree on holding the elections and binding the government to take all the necessary measures to hold them in a fair and unbiased manner, the Muslim Brotherhood hopes that no measures to issue new laws on the elections or on economic or political issues would be taken in the absence of the legislative branch

The Muslim Brotherhood believes that holding the elections under the present law, in spite of its many defects, is far better than holding them under an unkown law which has not been adequately discussed and scrutinized and which has not been adopted in accordance with the acknowledged constitutional stages.

The amendment of the law at such short notice and in an unconstitutional manner gives way to controversy, hampers the march, fragments national unity, and engenders aversion among the sons of the one family. This is something the forces in the Jordanian arena, including

the Muslim Brotherhood, oppose. The Muslim Brotherhood, with all the other forces will act through all the legal means that are available, including recourse to the Jordanian courts, to paralyze the effects of such an amendment and obtain a stay of justice in accordance with Article 9/A/7 of High Court of Justice Law No. 12 of 1992.

4. We call on all the loyal forces and key sectors in the Jordanian arena to raise their voices to express their viewpoint on this state of affairs and to coordinate among themselves to reach a consensus that will serve public interest, achieve national unity, and end any violations.

And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and his Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

God is great and Him we thank.

Army: Southern Deployment Not Against Resistance

NC0908165793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Statement by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 9 August—read by announcer]

[Text] To implement the Cabinet's decision of 1 August 1993 on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the operational area of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], which lies outside the areas under Israeli occupation, and following coordination with the UNIFIL, a Lebanese Army force deployed in the specified assembly points near Qana, Jwayya, Dirdghayya, and Bi'r al-Sanasil this morning. The Army will thus possess mobile capability in those areas to carry out its task of boosting the southern citizens' steadfastness vis-a-vis Israeli attacks and averting any security incidents inside the villages.

The nature of the deployment takes into account only the mission detailed above. There is no truth to the reports that this deployment is directed against any party, particularly the resistance against the occupation, which remains the citizens' natural right until the occupation ends.

Hizballah Pledge, Ministers' Debate Viewed

NC1008081893 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Aug 93 p 2

[Article by Sarkis Na'um: "Hizballah Gave a Written Pledge To Halt the Rockets"]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources who obtained accurate and detailed information about the discussions that took place in Damascus late last week among the Arab foreign ministers, between the Lebanese prime minister and several Syrian officials, and between Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in the presence of their host Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' have reported the following impressions:

1. Damascus seemed to fully realize the implications of the extensive Israeli military operation against the south, western al- Biqa', and other Lebanese areas. It also appeared to be aware of the danger of failing to take the issue seriously because the operation's political, military, human, social, and economic effects on Lebanon were so major that they posed a threat to the country's progress from a state of war to that of peace and to Syria and its interests. Second, it was aware that nothing could prevent a repetition of the Israeli operation on a scale that would affect Lebanon, Syria, the peace process, and everything the two countries were trying to achieve at the peace conference. Finally, Syria seemed aware that Hizballah's military activity in the south had gone too far, farther than Syria wanted Hizballah to go so it could be used as a bargaining chip in the negotiations. Hizballah had changed from a Syrian instrument of pressure on others to an instrument of pressure on Syria itself.

2. Tehran seemed fully aware that Hizballah had outstripped it by its actions in the south, giving Israel the justification to carry out a major military operation. At the same time, Tehran wanted to rescue this "party" from the predicament in which it had placed itself, Syria, and Lebanon. This was apparent in its adoption of the concept of "harmony" between Lebanon and the resistance. Lebanon itself, in the words of Foreign Minister Buwayz, had formerly adopted this concept.

3. It was clear that because of political considerations connected with the negotiations with Israel, Syria and Lebanon would not halt the resistance. Nevertheless, it was clear that the resistance would be permitted only limited movement and that its actions would be designed to serve, not undermine, the two countries' negotiating posture.

Leaked information about these discussions and meetings in Damascus includes the following:

1. Lebanon bit the bullet during the Arab foreign ministers meeting and asked the conferees to provide it with full political, moral, and financial assistance against the Israeli aggressive action. Lebanon knew that most of the Arab foreign ministers were angry and that the atmosphere was unsuitable for such a request because the foreign ministers believed that the events in the south were the result of Hizballah's attempt to entrap Israel with the help of Iran, Hizballah's proprietor and founder. For this reason the foreign ministers were not ready to assist Iran and its group in Lebanon. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and others expressed this attitude publicly. Lebanese Foreign Minister Buwayz held bilateral meetings with several Arab foreign ministers to prepare them for the discussion of this issue before the first full session convened.

2. Lebanese Foreign Minister Buwayz was very clear, frank, and bold with his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati during their meeting, which was attended by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Buwayz began by telling Velayati that some parties wanted to abolish the resistance while others sought to maintain it. He added that Lebanon belongs to the second group but apparently Iran belongs to the first. When Velayati asked why Buwayz said that he who forces people out of their homes or contributes to their flight is not a resistance fighter but one who perpetrates a national crime. He added that Lebanon refuses to discuss security arrangements with Israel and that the main problem is the need for Israeli withdrawal from its territory. Therefore, anyone who undermines this Lebanese position and, by his actions and positions, forces Lebanon to discuss such matters with Israel is not a resistance fighter but one guilty of national treason. Buwayz said that anyone who squanders Lebanon's and the Arabs' chance of regaining occupied territory commits a crime. He continued that the resistance is supposed to be an explosive charge that detonates the enemy but what happened in the south, recently and in the past, caused the explosives to detonate their owners, namely Lebanon and Syria. He asked: Is this what you Iranians want? The way the resistance is

acting is taking the country back to the pre-1982 situation. This will make the people oppose the resistance and it will face the same fate as 'Arafat, who left Lebanon in defeat. Buwayz added that events in the south reflect an objective alliance between Israel, Hizballah, and Hizballah's backers.

Velayati spoke about the resistance and the situation in the south in light of the Israeli attacks. He commended the Lebanese Government and people for their sympathy with and protection of the resistance. Buwayz answered him: This stand has weighed down our conscience because with the things the resistance has been doing it does not serve Lebanon or its national unity, interests, and right to restore its occupied land. Nevertheless, the important thing is to achieve results. Velayati seized this opportunity to speak about the need for harmony between the Lebanese authorities and the resistance.

3. Israel received a real pledge that the bombardment of its northern areas with rockets and shells will stop. The importance of this pledge lies in two things. First, it is a written pledge of approximately four lines and signed by "Hizballah." Secondly, it is not confined to halting the firing of rockets and shells on northern Israel but also on the "security zone." Minister al-Shar's formula did not mention the "security zone." However, Minister Buwayz demanded that the "zone" be included. His request was granted, although some wanted to leave this for bargaining to get something in return. However, the situation did not permit a "bazaar" because the tragedy of the south and of the southerners was so severe.

4. In return for its written pledge, Hizballah demanded a Syrian guarantee that it would not be subjected to a smear campaign by Lebanese authorities or certain movements holding it responsible for the destruction of thousands of houses, the displacement of tens of thousands of people, and exposing the south and all of Lebanon to the dangers of a wide-scale invasion and perhaps occupation. Syria has given Hizballah this guarantee. The available information indicates that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam discussed this subject with Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and leader of the Amal Movement. There is disagreement and competition between Amal and Hizballah. In the beginning Birri refused, but then he accepted when he was informed that President al-Asad wanted this. As a price for his acceptance, he half-jokingly demanded 100,000 tons of cement from President al-Asad for the reconstruction of the south. It seems that he got his request. Also half-jokingly, Birri referred to Syria's responsibility for the strengthening of Hizballah and the harm it has caused.

Will Hizballah respect its signature? The Lebanese, regional, Arab, and international circumstances dictate that it should do so at least for a certain period. However, the future is vague since everything depends on the progress of the peace process, the level of understanding between Washington and Damascus, and Washington's success in providing Syria with the means to continue the peace process. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Damascus and his meeting with Lebanese officials will deal with these matters.

Hizballah Denies Pledge

NC0908134793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, 9 Aug (MENA)—Hizballah has denied signing any written pledge to Israel or others that it will not fire rockets on northern Israel or the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon. Hizballah affirmed that the talks held by the foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, and Iran in Damascus did not yield any agreement or pledge in this regard.

This came in a statement by a ranking Hizballah official in response to a report published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-NAHAR a few days ago that Hizballah pledged in writing to stop firing katyusha rockets on northern Israel. The official added that firing rockets is not a policy, but rather it is retaliation for the Israeli military operations against the Lebanese resistance.

The Hizballah official maintained that this stand had been relayed to Syrian officials, who in turn conveyed it to U.S. officials.

Paper Reports Iran Blamed for 'Israeli Shock'

NC0908131893 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by the "political editor"]

[Excerpt] Everybody knew what was going to happen and waited for the catastrophe to come. Nonetheless, everybody is confused about how to handle the direct impact of the Israeli shock that started to hit the south and western al-Biqa' on 25 July.

None of the rulers, political and party leaderships, spiritual and historic figures, or civilian and military commanders is prepared to admit that he was surprised or taken off guard. However, conclusions differ widely!

Although all parties concerned are acting as though they have emerged "triumphant" from the test of the Israeli fire, they cannot deny that Lebanon—the state and the people—has sustained much damage to its present, its development opportunities, and its future and that it may have to pay tomorrow what it has refused to pay to the Israeli occupier through the American-sponsored bilateral negotiations.

Some say that the notion of the state has triumphed for good and that the "last canton" that relied on the excuse of resisting the occupation has fallen.

Some contest that and say that the resistance has triumphed because Lebanon, with all its sects and its government, has joined forces with it. They argue that the resistance is no longer a "party" in Lebanon, that it

has become the collective destiny of the Lebanese. The evidence is found in the reaction of the powers, categories, and parties, reactions that were crowned by the statement of the spiritual summit in Bkirki [Maronite patriarchate seat] last Monday [2 August].

In contrast to those who claim that Iranian influence in Lebanon has received a powerful slap, since Iran has been blamed for causing the [Israeli] devastation and being responsible for its results, others present events in a different manner to arrive at the opposite conclusion. They argue that Iran has come in but not out! They say that Iran has become an unsegregated party to the crisis and its proposed solutions. It has forced its American rival to talk to it about Lebanon, even through its Syrian ally. This, in itself, is a recognition of an Iranian role and of Iran as a party concerned with what will happen to the new map of the region within or outside negotiations.

While there may be a semiconsensus on the basic role of the Army beyond its security duties, differences soon emerge when the views of the parties involved are examined. Some want the Army to substitute for the government and its administration, the parties and their conflicts, and the UN emergency forces and their indifference or obvious deficiency. Others want the Army as a weapon in their hands to liquidate their political rivals.

Others assume that they will be able to employ the Army in the service of the resistance and its political goals, making it a fence and shield for their back lines.

Moreover, some suspect a speedy "international" approval of the Army deployment in the area of operation of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and that the Army will handle all confrontations with the Israeli occupation. This was not acceptable at the local and UN levels, to the Americans in particular, a year and a half ago, or even from 1981 until now.

Repeated official statements that warned against sedition over the past two days were out of tune, since the Lebanese felt that their national unity was as great as ever after the devastating destruction and displacement. Not a single out-of-tune voice reopened the deep wounds or raised controversial issues, even under sectarian excuses.

Public warnings against sedition were made by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Many other leaders and authorities sufficed themselves with whispering their fears behind closed doors.

It is clear that the fear is basically linked with the explosive situation that marked relations between the "Amal Movement" and "Hizballah" two years ago, culminating in the "Iqlim al-Tuffah war" and then calming down after strong intervention from Syria, which used some of its influence on Iran. One of the results of that intervention was the transformation of that public war into a type of public coexistence demonstrated during parliamentary elections: Two of the "party's" leaders were on the list of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri.

Amal Movement circles slightly exaggerated their welcome of the Army. They went so far as to depict the Army as an ally of the Movement (which has now become a pillar of the legitimate government) in confronting the "party" [Hizballah]. The latter continues to be outside of the legitimate government and to rely on foreign sides that would not hesitate to use it as a tool in the wars of others on our land.

Despite Hizballah's attempts to confirm its Lebanese identity and commitment to security without abandoning the gun and resistance, the statements of some Iranian officials have harmed the party. These officials said that through Hizballah Iran has triumphed in confronting the Israeli aggressive action in southern Lebanon.

Therefore, Hizballah's pledges to various government departments about its readiness to be controlled, to bolster national unity, and to accept the Army's role in the south as in other parts of Lebanon were useless in creating the bases for a healthy and sound relationship between it and the state in Lebanon.

The president's reproof of this leadership for its delay in visiting him was merely an opportunity to discuss several issues, including Hizballah's relations with Iran, the methods used by the resistance and Israel's possible reactions to these methods, and whether Hizballah is acting within the system, outside it, or against it.

On another level, when Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz met his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Damascus he did not hesitate to pose a number of questions that, according to Velayati, are accusations. The simplest of these was: "Why do you persist in ignoring the state and dealing, as a country, directly with Hizballah? We came to you and sought relations of cooperation and friendship between us as two states. However, you continued to ignore us as a legitimate authority. We read in your Council of Ministers' resolutions that you allocated funds for supporting Hizballah. We have recognized the existence of Hizballah as a Lebanese political institution. We have not placed any barriers before its joining the Chamber of Deputies. We did not issue any special laws to dissolve parliament and prevent Hizballah from performing its role in Lebanese political life through the legitimate government."

In contrast to this, some circles close to Tehran say that Syria succeeded in uniting the Arabs quickly for the sake of Lebanon and holding contacts with the United States to secure through the latter's mediation an Israeli ceasefire in the south. But this would not have been possible without the help of the Iranian faithful.

These circles add: 'Ali Akbar Velayati responded to the call immediately. He came to Damascus and spent three long days there. He heard some words, some of which were

not correct or accurate. All in all, these words were harsh and held Iran responsible for the Israeli shock. But he helped as much as he could toward toppling the Israeli pretexts, which the Americans were using to justify the continuation of the destruction and displacement of the people.

These circles also say: Velayati ignored the provocative Egyptian stand and the slander issued by many Arab sides and responded to most requests. In particular, he responded to the request to use Iran's influence on Hizballah and some Palestinian sides, particularly the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] (the Ahmad Jibril group).

When one discusses with these circles the fact that this confirms Iran's role, and is not a concession from it, they immediately answer that Iran was always a party and will remain so. It is a party to all the region's issues and policies. No one can ignore it or its relations with the resistance in general and Hizballah in particular, the latter being one that exceeds political limits and circumstances. This is the strategy of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and it will not abandon this strategy. [passage omitted]

Article Analyzes Iranian Stand Toward Lebanon

NC0908155193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 2

[Article by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[Text] Some concerned circles regard U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement in Cairo about the future of the region if the settlement process sponsored by his country fails as a clear threat and a tacit confirmation that Washington will not prevent other Israeli military measures to activate the negotiations. They note that Damascus treated with extreme caution the U.S. stand, which was quite clear from the moment the military attacks on Lebanon started.

Informed political sources said that the information and reports from Damascus and Beirut about the Israeli aggression before it took place were not enough to assess its extent. The aggression did not augur well either for peace in the region or for the attempt at normalization with the peoples of neighboring Israel.

But this assessment does not influence the domestic and regional situation which creates the climate that paves the way for major decisions. The magnitude of the Israeli aggression and the threat of escalation, even to launching a large land invasion, in addition to the explicit threat that there will be no reconstruction in Lebanon while the resistance continues, strengthened the position of those in Beirut who support the U.S. stand. They exerted more pressure and bullying in order to influence popular opinion and then the position of the decision makers. Circles that followed the developments observed that these U.S. policy supporters praised and welcomed the ceasefire, and in their analysis of its dimensions went so far as to announce the death of the resistance and to say that Syria had started to pay out of its own pocket now.

According to the same sources, the sharp argument that took place during the meeting of foreign ministers Faris Buwayz [of Lebanon], Faruq al-Shar' [of Syria], and 'Ali Akbar Velayati [of Iran] in the Syrian capital was evidence of the change in Iranian policy toward the Lebanese issue and toward Hizballah's closer approach to the Syrian plan, which removed the traces of the differences over this issue. The Beirut regime's efforts have always focused on attracting the Iranian stand so as to make it totally parallel to the Syrian one, or not different from it, while maintaining the regime's declared position of commitment to the Syrian ceiling. Its defense of the resistance and the right to continue it was the ideal way to make Iran agree in practice to stand with it and the resistance according to the regime's political plan. That is what was called the harmonization between the state and resistance. This change has been the regime's historical demand.

This strategic reversal of the Iranian stand imposed itself on the resistance and its consequences will not be limited to Hizballah's internal situation or to that of some of the pro-Iranian Palestinian organizations. We should wait a little to observe its effects on these forces' relations with their supporters and political positions. We are not saying that this means that a radical change has taken place in these forces' policies or objectives but what happened after this aggression and the political developments that might follow it have changed the general direction of these forces' movement and have brought this movement closer to that of the state which is continuing with the negotiations. Nabih Birri's statement about the end of other people's wars on Lebanon's southern territories and that resistance operates only to implement Resolution 425 is the best indicator of this change.

What does this mean?

A prominent Shiite source believes that the Israeli operation simultaneously targeted Lebanon's internal arena, Hizballah, and Lebanon's relations with Syria. Israel failed to achieve its objective in the country because the official, popular, and religious stand of solidarity against the aggression, the overwhelming condemnation of it, and the Lebanese people's rush to materially help the affected southerners showed that the 1993 Lebanon is not the Lebanon of previous years and therefore cannot be penetrated in this way.

The Shiite source adds: Israel has failed to hurt Hizballah's organizational and military machines. The aggression could not hit the military targets it sought. It also failed to uproot Hizballah because its members are Lebanese citizens, not a "foreign community" that can be deported like the Palestinians in 1982. This means that the absence of Hizballah members from southern villages for a month or a bit longer will not solve the problem. They will return later and might become a strong polarizing factor in case the negotiations fail.

The source continues: What is needed now is a security, political, and economic plan to thwart Israel's additional aim of sowing sedition among the Shiites themselves, that is, between Amal and Hizballah, and inciting the people against the armed groups. If this happens it can ruin everything.

The prominent Shiite source believes that it is necessary to dissipate the current anxiety about possible intra-Shiite sedition. He thinks that Hizballah's leaders and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri must seek to avert such a development.

Regarding the relationship between the Lebanese Government and Syria, the source says one must not exaggerate things by saying that Israel has achieved its aims. Indeed, the official Lebanese position that backs the resistance (operations inside the occupied areas) and Lebanon's refusal to make any commitment in this connection, shows that Syrian-Lebanese coordination on this issue continues. This coordination will affect other issues as well, particularly the security arrangements in the south. Security arrangements are what Israel is trying to achieve. Israel and the United States are trying to exploit the recent military aggression to prepare a suitable climate to discuss the security issue before other issues, notably implementing Resolution 425.

Foreign diplomats in Beirut are saying that if the Lebanese Army deploys successfully in the area where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon operates, this might make any discussion of security arrangements futile because the army itself will actually carry out most of the necessary measures to control the security situation, preventing the firing of rockets and artillery shells and the presence of armed elements. This will force the resistance to resort to different and more difficult ways of reaching the occupied areas. The foregoing discussion is not intended to say that the Lebanese Army will perform the tasks that Israel wants.

Has Israel achieved progress or a major breakthrough?

The prominent Shiite source believes that the turning point can be noticed in Iran's attitude. It accepted (willingly or not) a reduction in its custodianship of the forces loyal to it and of their decisions and political and security actions. Iran could wield its influence better before.

The Shiite source goes further and says: The Israeli aggression, enjoying full U.S. cover, succeeded in carrying out a regional disengagement and confronting the resistance movement's Iranian factor. It confronted Hizballah which is the Islamic spearhead that annoys the West and the United States, frightens Israel, and imposes on it a different sort of relationship with the Arab and Islamic world.

What needs to be watched and examined are future U.S. proposals concerning the Palestinian and Syrian negotiating tracks. The U.S. secretary of state will make a major effort to exploit the recent Israeli aggression to push through his own political settlement plan. This plan is already different from that of the former U.S. Administration.

Al-Hariri: Israeli Action Bolsters Extremists

PM0908111293 Paris LIBERATION in French 5 Aug 93 p 14

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Marc Kravetz in Zahlah on 3 August]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived yesterday in Zahlah, on the al-Biqa' plain, where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He spoke of "the urgent need for a peaceful solution in the region" and expressed his conviction of "seeing emerge a new opportunity for restarting the peace process." His visit to Lebanon was not expected. He had previously had talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. The Syrian-Israeli negotiations occupy a central position in this Near East tour. The United States has welcomed Damascus' role in the settlement of the recent crisis in southern Lebanon and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the villages hitherto held by Hizballah. Rafiq al-Hariri, questioned on Tuesday [3 August] evening before Warren Christopher's visit, nonetheless thinks the Shi'ite movement's struggle against the Israeli occupation is justified.

[Kravetz] In your view, what was the Israeli objective in this new war in southern Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] You should ask Mr. Rabin that question. I note the scale of the destruction—at least 10,000 houses and 20,000 apartments destroyed, dozens of villages half or more than half destroyed, not to mention the loss of human life. If the goal was to destroy or wipe out the Lebanese resistance or Hizballah in the south, I would also point out that neither has been really affected but that, on the other hand, it is the Lebanese people who have been hit. Mr. Rabin may have wanted to show that he was ready for war as well as for peace, but we are now entitled to ask whether Israel really wants peace. If by peace you mean coexistence, open borders, trade, do you think that can be achieved by murdering children or old people, by destroying houses and villages?

[Kravetz] Many inhabitants of the south nonetheless say that none of this would have happened if Hizballah had not launched an increasing number of provocations against the Israelis.

[Al-Hariri] People who have lost everything may react in that way. But you will scarcely find any, even among them, who accept the Israeli occupation of part of our country. That is the cause of all the trouble. The resistance to the occupation is merely the consequence of its existence.

[Kravetz] The Hizballah leaders make no secret of the fact that the liberation of southern Lebanon is merely one stage in a war whose final aim is to wipe Israel from the map of the Near East.

[Al-Hariri] That is indeed what they say. They have the right to say it. We are a democracy. I will not be telling you any secret if I say that I do not agree with Hizballah and that Hizballah is not reluctant to criticize my government. The question of the south is very different in nature. Resisting the occupier is not a government matter, but a duty for the Lebanese.

[Kravetz] But when you decide to deploy the Lebanese army, especially in the area now controlled by the UN Intervention Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], is this not in fact a means of limiting Hizballah's activity?

[Al-Hariri] The Army must be deployed throughout Lebanese territory. Its main role in the south will be to guarantee the security of the populations—a mission which does not fall to the UNIFIL.

[Kravetz] Does this also mean that in the case of a new Israeli attack, it would be the Lebanese Army that would respond?

[Al-Hariri] If the army is attacked, it will defend itself. That happened during the week of war waged by Israel. According to our means, of course.

[Kravetz] The tension between the Lebanese army and Hizballah is nonetheless likely to be high.

[Al-Hariri] Why? Everybody must act in his place. (The prime minster drew an imaginary map with his finger—LIBERATION editor's note). In the south, you have the occupied area and legal Lebanon where the Lebanese Army is deployed with a kind of no-man's-land between the two, which is precisely the area from which the resistance's actions are launched. If your question is: Are we going to disarm Hizballah? The answer is no. That would spark off a new civil war. As long as our territory is occupied, it is legitimate to oppose the occupation, and that is true of Hizballah and the Lebanese resistance in general.

[Kravetz] Does that include firing katyusha rockets on northern Israel?

[Al-Hariri] We are opposed to this "katyusha policy," as all Lebanese governments since 1982 have been. It is neither fair nor effective.

[Kravetz] I note that you often draw a distinction between Hizballah and the resistance. What does that mean?

[Al-Hariri] That the Lebanese resistance is not the work of just one party. Amal and other groups are carrying out operations against the occupied zone. The current objective is to liberate our country. When Israel has withdrawn, there will no longer be any reason to tolerate the presence of irregular armed elements on the border any more than we accept them elsewhere in the country.

[Kravetz] Your government, and you personally, have decided to withdraw current permits to carry arms. Is this not precisely to control the activities of Hizballah, the only militia which has been able to keep its arms?

[Al-Hariri] No. That is not aimed at anybody in particular or at everybody. The measure has nothing to do with what is happening in the south; it is a coincidence of dates. Nor do I think that the people who are putting up resistance in the south worry about permits to carry weapons.

[Kravetz] Does this mean that your government is tolerating on one side what it is refusing on the other?

[Al-Hariri] The resistance does not need permission to resist. The government does not encourage the resistance nor does it discourage it, but it has our sympathy, like that of all Lebanese.

[Kravetz] What has just happened at least shows that there is no military solution. So how can a settlement be achieved?

[Al-Hariri] By negotiating, and this is what we are doing in Washington. The solution is extremely simple. UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426 must be implemented. Once Israel has returned home, the Lebanese Army will be able to guarantee the security of the border with the UN forces. As soon as Israel announces its intention to withdraw, the resistance no longer has any reason to exist. It is therefore not a matter of an immediate withdrawal, but the establishment of a timetable.

[Kravetz] Hizballah is certainly not in agreement on this point.

[Al-Hariri] Hizballah will not hear of negotiations or of the implementation of Resolution 425, and it repeats that every day. This too is its viewpoint, not ours.

[Kravetz] There seems to be a great deal of mystery about the cease-fire established since Sunday. Is one of the clauses not precisely to disarm Hizballah? For instance, by stopping the transit of weapons via Damascus?

[Al-Hariri] If there are such provisions, I have not been informed about them. But I do not think so. I do not even know if it is possible to talk officially of a cease-fire. Like everybody, I note that there has been a cessation of fire.

[Kravetz] Many Lebanese commentators link this "seven-day war" with the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region and the revival of the peace process. Do you share that view?

[Al-Hariri] It is a hypothesis. But what has just happened is scarcely a step in the direction of peace. The vast majority of people are now turning against Israel much more than against Hizballah. With such actions, the Israelis are merely strengthening the extremist and fundamentalist movements in the Arab world. That is why there is reason to wonder whether their goal is really to achieve peace.

[Kravetz] Is this new tragedy affecting south Lebanon likely to affect your program for rebuilding the country?

[Al-Hariri] It makes things more difficult for us but does not change anything essential. We will continue to get our infrastructures working again and continue the rebuilding work. Even in the south, as you have been able to see, we are already at work. But the most important factor is the country's unity as demonstrated over the past eight months and for the first time in 20 years. We now have a parliament and a government which are working with the agreement of all. Last week's trial merely strengthened that unity.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Arrives in Damascus 9 Aug for Talks

Army Deployment, Peace Process on Agenda

NC0908155793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1538 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] We have just been informed that Prime Minister Rafiq al- Hariri arrived in Damascus from Paris at noon today. The prime minister will hold talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and ranking Syrian officials. The talks will deal with the Army deployment process in accordance with the Council of Ministers' decision. The talks will also touch on the discussions held by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Zahlah last week and the effect of these discussions on developments in the peace process and the next stage of negotiations with Israel.

Al-Asad Receives al-Hariri

JN0908171993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 9 Aug (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1745 today.

Al-Shar' Confers With EC Ambassadors on Lebanon, Peace

JN0908125393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received the EC ambassadors, led by the Belgian ambassador. Yusuf Shakkur, the minister's assistant, and Muwaffaq Nassar, director of the Western Europe Desk attended the meeting.

The ambassadors of Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy, and the charge d'affaires of Denmark, Greece, and the Netherlands, and the EC representative in Damascus were also present.

Talks focussed on the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the efforts made to end it, foil its objectives, and limit its serious repercussions. Talks also dealt with the EC position toward the Israeli military operations in Lebanon and their results on the peace process, and the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour in the region.

Space Channel Lease Agreement Signed With ARABSAT

JN1008072293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman received Sa'd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Badanah, director general of the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, ARABSAT, and his delegation this morning. Michel Barah, the minister's assistant for engineering affairs, and 'Abd-al-Nabi Hijazi, director general of the [Syrian] Radio and Television Corporation, attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with Syria's subscription to a space channel in the the new generation of Arabsat. They also dealt with the way to develop cooperation between Syrian Arab Television and ARABSAT.

The two sides signed an agreement this evening, according to which Syria will be leased the satellite channel "KU" in the second Arabsat generation of satellites. The agreement was signed for Syria by 'Abd-al-Nabi Hijazi and for Arabsat by Sa'd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Badanah in the presence of Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Communications Minister Radwan Martini. Under the terms of this agreement, Syrian radio and television programs as well as Syrian news agency traffic will be transmitted to Asia, Europe, and Africa via Arabsat.

This agreement is a qualitative step toward acquainting the world with Syria's various accomplishments in all domains during the last two decades. Transmission via the leased channel will begin in the middle of 1996 within the framework of the second generation of Arab satellites.

Commentaries Offer Analyses of Peace Negotiations

U.S. Urged To Unravel 'Israeli Knot'

JN0608193393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of Return" feature by Ibrahim Basyuni]

[Text] Brother strugglers: The Arab sides concerned with the peace process have asserted their commitment to this process, as well as their commitment to advancing it and to breaking the logjam plaguing it, thanks to the intransigent and stubborn Israeli positions. This assertion has been expressed in the talks U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has held with Arab leaders and officials during his current tour of the region. The Arabs' commitment to the peace process, as well as their keenness to ensure progress in the peace talks and make them a success, stems primarily from their respect for international legitimacy. It also comes from their commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of trading land for peace, which have been the terms of reference of the peace process since it was launched in Madrid 21 months ago.

The Arabs have consistently called for compliance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process. Likewise, they have demanded the implementation of the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict. Toward this end, the Arabs have provided every conceivable facility to advance the peace process and make it a success. Similarly, they have responded favorably to the international and U.S. efforts

to activate the peace process and salvage it from the dangers and difficulties it has encountered due to the persistently stubborn and evasive Israeli positions.

Still, the Arabs' commitment to the peace process, their firm and unmistakable concern for making it a success, and desire for progress in the peace talks does not mean that the Arabs will succumb to Israeli blackmail tactics and to Israeli attempts to prolong the talks through the continued demonstration of procrastination and prevarication, which so far have thwarted 10 rounds of talks over the past 21 months.

Christopher might have felt an unmistakably clear Arab eagerness to salvage the peace process and render it a success. Nonetheless, it must be stated in no uncertain terms that this eagerness is based on concepts and constants over which there can be no bargaining or questioning whatsoever. The first of these constants concerns the need to achieve a comprehensive solution on all fronts so that there will be no room for partial or separate settlements. The second of these constants is that peace must be based on commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories; that is, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian heights, as well as the occupied part of southern Lebanon. Moreover, any peaceful settlement must ensure the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Given all this, the U.S. cosponsor must act to make Israel implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which are the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process. The constant Israeli rejection of the relevant UN resolutions, Israel's flagrant defiance of international legitimacy, as well as the obstacles and barriers Israel is placing in the way of the peace process, such as the recent attacks on southern Lebanon and aggravating tension in the occupied Arab territories, have all obstructed and thwarted the peace process. Consequently, if this process is to move forward and make progress, pressure must be put on Israel to make it comply with the terms of reference of the peace process, implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and honor the principle of trading land for peace.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration is capable of doing that. The problem then lies with Israel, and not with the Arabs. As for Christopher, he has found himself, now more than ever before, standing face-to-face with the Israeli knot, which must be unraveled if the peace process is to be revived in accordance with the bases and principles laid down for it in Madrid 21 months ago.

Requirements for 'Saving' Process Viewed

JN0708091793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 7 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the Middle East peace process and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, which he concluded yesterday. TISHRIN says Christopher has now seen that Syria is interested in a just, comprehensive peace, and that it is fully committed to the bases on which the Madrid conference was convened.

TISHRIN explains that saving the peace process essentially requires a full Israeli response to the bases of the settlement process and complete compliance with the land-for-peace principle.

TISHRIN says that at the end of his tour, Christopher might not have needed to note the existence of obstacles if Israel had shown as much interest as the Arabs, particularly Syria, in the peace process and regional stability.

After detailing the Israeli practices that obstruct the peace process, TISHRIN calls on the United States to remove the Israeli obstacles by forcing the Rabin government to accept full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and fully implement UN resolutions, abandoning its illusions and pretexts of security.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that interpretations and maneuvers aren't necessary to achieve peace in accordance with UN resolutions and the principles specified in the letters of assurances. Rather, the termination of the Israeli occupation is necessary. No peace can be durable and stable under occupation. The Arabs have made it quite clear that no peace can be achieved by injustice, usurpation of territory, and denying others' rights. Likewise, no peace can be achieved if UN resolutions are circumvented, as Israel is trying to do.

In an article, AL-THAWRAH says that, thanks to a minimal level of coordination, Israel has always been countered by a unified Arab position. However, Israel has not given up its maneuvers in the hope that it can waste time, evade the requirements of peace, and undermine the peace process while blaming it on the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH explains that, in all its contacts with international parties in general and with the cosponsors of the peace conference and the United States in particular, Syria exposed the Israeli evasiveness and the dangers of the destructive Israeli behavior not only against the peace process, but also against the future of the region.

AL-THAWRAH says Syria has not and will not leave any room for suspicions or illusions about the pan-Arab principles that it will never abandon under any circumstances. The paper says that leader al-Asad has frequently reaffirmed our people's decision not to ever abandon our rights. Noting our brave stand on the peace process, leader al-Asad said: We have neither ceded our rights nor have we been intransigent. We have adhered to justice and to what we believe to be our rights and we must defend them. He said that we want peace and that we have been sincere in what we have proposed. Now,

we want an honorable peace acceptable by our peoples—a peace that will not relinquish an iota of our national soil or any of our national or pan-Arab rights. The Arab nation's dignity cannot be taken lightly.

AL-THAWRAH adds: A long time ago, leader al-Asad explained Syria's position on Israel's maneuvers and obstacles when he said: Despite the games, obstacles, and ambushes, nobody will be able to make Syria abandon its national and pan-Arab stands. He stressed that the word capitulation does not exist in our dictionary. Recently, in his address to the men of our Armed Forces on their anniversary, leader al-Asad stressed the basis on which we seek peace. He said: We will not relinquish our rights nor compromise our occupied land. On this basis, we seek peace. He who wants peace should realize the fairness of our demands and soundness of our position.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: These are our constant stands. We can talk about progress and saving the peace process only in accordance with them. Otherwise, all efforts will be a waste of time if Israel's haughtiness, conceit, and persistence in rejecting the conditions of a just, comprehensive peace continue and if the peace process remains captive to Israeli insincerity.

'Neutral U.S. Position' Urged

JN0908080793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "How To Open the Way for the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Peace efforts stumbled approximately two years ago, not only because Israel rejected peace from the very beginning, but also because Israel is far away from pressures and does not comply with the international will.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has obstructed the peace efforts for approximately two years. It will also obstruct future efforts because it is confident that it will not be subjected to international sanctions, and that big power neutrality is out of the question. This will protect Israeli military or political conduct from any international protest.

AL-BA'TH affirms that Israel, which uses aggression to influence the peace talks, will henceforth intensify the situation in order to perpetuate the talks and pressure the Arabs into accepting the accomplished facts.

The paper stresses that Israel should comply with the international will. This requires both a neutral U.S. position and an international position that uses a single standard in dealing with issues of war and peace.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arab parties concerned will not impede the peace process. However, these parties, along with other Arabs, cannot be committed to a peace that does not secure Arab rights.

'Proper Preparation' Needed for Next Round

JN0908155393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region last week raised speculation about the possible date that the cosponsors of the peace process will choose to convene the 11th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington.

Perhaps, this speculation is taking place because previous tours made by U.S. secretaries of state seemed to have the setting of dates for the next rounds of talks as the main objective of their contacts in the region.

But the fact that Christopher left the region with the date for the resumption of talks open—a subject for more contacts with the concerned parties and the other sponsor of the peace process, Russia—is seen as a meaningful signal. In addition to this, reports say that the U.S. secretary or the head of the U.S. team to the peace process, Dennis Ross, may make another visit to the region before choosing a suitable date for the resumption of negotiations in Washington. This shows seriousness and concern that the next round of bilateral talks are properly prepared for so that they will end with better results than the previous rounds, if these rounds have any noteworthy results at all.

The fact that the past 10 rounds, with their disappointing results, have made almost no progress make it essential that no more risks are taken with unsuccessful and disappointing rounds. Otherwise the peace process will lose its credibility with the world and with the Arab people, especially those living under occupation who have expressed their pessimism about lack of results in the negotiations.

To be fair, the Arab side used to call for proper preparation before every round of talks, in order to render it successful. But Israel used to expedite the convening of rounds of talks and show eagerness to hold them quickly for reasons that proved to be far different than a desire to make real progress. Israel wanted to have the greatest number of rounds possible, thus giving the illusion to international public opinion that Israel is really eager to have peace.

Hence, proper preparation before the invitation to a new round of talks will deny Israel the chance to continue the trick it has been playing throughout the previous rounds. Ensuring that there is a real chance for the next round of talks to make progress before giving out invitations to resume the talks shows greater seriousness about the contents of the bilateral talks and about ending the Israeli maneuvering, which is designed to waste time and end each round without progress. This is actually the most important aspect of the shuttle tours and the active contacts of the U.S. sponsor during the current break between rounds of negotiations. This also makes the

Arab parties particularly eager to take these contacts seriously and sincerely. The success of these tours and contacts between rounds in Washington will provide the momentum to advance the negotiating process to reach its desired objective—a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

'Need to Ensure Progress' Stressed

JN1008062393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH asserts that convening an 11th round of peace talks depends on possible progress being made in these talks. This means there will be intensive contacts between the United States and the parties participating in the peace process before setting a date for the resumption of the talks. The aim of these contacts is to find out exactly how the parties concerned think matters should proceed if the talks are to resume, since it is indeed impossible for the peace talks to continue without making any progress that will push the peace process several tangible steps forward.

The paper says the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon was a direct reason for complicating the peace process. It is evident that one of the major objectives of the aggression was to bury the peace process. It is therefore impermissible to resume the peace talks before making sure that they will achieve progress that serves the peace process. This will certainly not happen unless Israel declares its full commitment to implementing UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 stipulating the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied by force.

AL-BA'TH goes on: It is common knowledge that Israel has to date been maneuvering over this question. It still refuses to implement international resolutions and insists on having everything without giving anything in return. This intransigent position has prevented any progress in the previous 10 rounds.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH stresses the need to ensure progress is made in the next round in order to ensure the success of the peace process.

Kuwaiti Writers Criticized for 'Zionist Logic'

JN0808145693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—AL-BA'TH strongly criticized the venomous and hateful articles that are published in Kuwaiti newspapers, from time to time, using the nastiest words and lowliest terms against Arabs, Arabism, the Arab nation, pan-Arabism, Arab unity and Arab history.

In an analysis published today, the newspaper denounced the impudence of those who altogether wipe out roots and history, and shun the hand that helped them at a time of crisis. The paper stressed that this hand is still strong and is ready to help any Arab.

The newspaper asked: In whose interest are these things said, and what good does this talk do in the current circumstances of the Arab region? It added: We have no doubt in the Arabism of our people in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, and the deep roots of the Kuwaiti people, but these sick pens serve no one other than Saddam Husayn and the ruling clique in Iraq, and provide them with the material they need to give the illusion that they fought and invaded for the sake of the Arabs and the pan-Arab cause.

The paper added: It is shameless that a writer of an editorial in AL-SIYASAH says there was no response to the call of Kuwait and the Kuwaitis when the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place. We ask this writer: Where were the Syrian and Egyptian forces? What about the voices of the sincere ones at Cairo's extraordinary summit? What about the strong Arab campaign in solidarity with Kuwait? We do not say this to remind anyone of a favor, what we did was based on our rejection of the aggression and the aggressor.

The newspaper said: To boast about deviating from the nation and to throw in one's lot with the enemies will not benefit these deviated writers and will not make them look big in the eyes of their Zionist masters. What heroism is there in these writers adoption of Zionist logic and propagation of Zionist ideology, canceling the contributions of their brothers in Kuwait?

The newspaper expressed confidence that Kuwait—its government, people, and sons—look with contempt at this talk, and know that using the crime of the Iraqi regime as a cover for this talk is like saying the right thing while having ulterior motives.

Concluding its analysis, AL-BA'TH Said: Yes, we will continue to be one Arab nation, we will continue to stick to our heritage and history, and will not be affected by an extraordinary situation [words indistinct].

Afghanistan

UN Special Envoy Visits, Discusses Country's Needs

Meets With Hekmatyar

LD0908191993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Esteemed Engineer Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met with UN special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Sotirios Mousoris, in Charasiab.

The press department of the Prime Ministry reported that at the meeting with Mr. Sotirios Mousoris and his entourage—where officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry were present—topics in political, economic, and cultural areas were discussed, and he [Mousoris] explained the necessary programs for the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Reciprocally, the esteemed Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, drew the attention of the UN special envoy to Afghan refugees, who need assistance, and asked for the United Nations to give its attention to the country's (?reconstruction), in particular in the health, construction, (?foodstuff), and social areas. He thanked the UN envoy for his efforts.

Expresses 'Readiness' To 'Help' in Elections

LD0908194293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] The United Nations has expressed its readiness to take an active part in elections in Afghanistan. This was stated by UN special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Mr. Sotirios Mousoris, this morning at a meeting with esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, the foreign affairs minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

At the meeting, topics concerning United Nations urgent assistance to cholera victims, the supply of medicine for preventing the spread of this disease, and the resettlement of displaced families in Kabul city were discussed.

A BIA correspondent adds that under the conditions that the United Nations is ready to take part in, and help the process of elections in our country, [words indistinct].

Esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud, former defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, had recently said in an interview that elections should be held under the supervision of the United Nations as soon as possible. [Words indistinct] selfless efforts in the holding of elections [words indistinct] is the only way to overcome the existing differences in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar Thanks Turkish Envoy for Reopening Embassy

LD0908185393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] This morning Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Turkish Ambassador [name indistinct].

The press department of the Prime Ministr's Office reported that Prime Minister Hekmatyar thanked the Turkish State and Government for its good measures in reopening the Turkish Embassy in Kabul.

Reciprocally, the Turkish ambassador expressed readiness to perform any necessary cooperation with the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

India

BJP Demands Inquiry Into Bomb Blast at RSS Headquarters

BK0908125793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Rajesh Pilot, has called upon the police and intelligence agencies to be more vigilant against the anti-national elements. He said the destabilizing forces may create problems in peaceful areas to give the impression that no area is safe in the country. He was talking to newspersons in Madras today after holding discussions with the Tamil Nadu chief minister and senior officials on yesterday's bomb blast at the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] state headquarters. Mr. Pilot was of the opinion that the nature of the blast indicates that RDX [Research Department Explosive] might not have been used in the Madras blast.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] inquiry into the bomb blast. Speaking to newsmen in Madras this afternoon, the party president, L.K. Advani, said the blast cannot be viewed as an isolated incident. He said it is a part of the sinister design of anti-social forces.

Rao, Romanians Discuss Relations

AU1008104393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0711 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Delhi, ROMPRES 10/8/1993—A meeting between a Romanian parliamentary delegation, headed by Doru-Ioan Taracila (Social Democracy Party of Romania), vice president of Romania's Senate, and high ranking officials in India has taken place in New Delhi, occasioned by an official visit paid by the Romanian parliamentary delegation to India.

Issues approached during the interview related first of all to economic, political, parliamentary and cultural ties between Romania and India. Within this framework, an important moment of the visit was the call of the

Romanian parliamentary delegation on the Indian prime minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Particular stress was laid during the talks on both states' real cooperation prospects and on the need to capitalise the experience gathered in bilateral collaboration until the present, as well as on the advantage of complementarity in several ways of both countries' economies.

Recalling with pleasure the visit paid to Romania in 1983, as foreign minister, the Indian premier showed the current concern in India related to the stage and development of ties with Romania.

The Indian premier accepted with pleasure the invitation to pay a visit to Romania as soon as possible, considering that it would be an occasion to draw a balance but also to open new prospects for bilateral relations. The Romanian parliamentarians had several other meetings with politicians and representatives of the business circles.

New Air Force Chief Optimistic on Spares From Russia

BK0608094593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 1 Aug 93 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—The air force priorities will be to ensure uninterrupted supply of spares, acquire the long-pending advance jet trainers and upgrade the aging MiG-21 BIS aircraft series to enhance its life and battle-worthiness.

This was disclosed by the new air chief, Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul, who assumed command at a simple ceremony at the air headquarters on Saturday [31 July].

While conceding that normal spares supply from the erstwhile Soviet Union had been "disrupted and diminished", the air chief saw no "serious difficulty" in getting the spares from Russia. He, however, admitted that the rate of flow of spares would not be as in the past.

About the AJT [Advanced Jet Trainer], the chief was optimistic that the air force would get it during his tenure. "The government has recognised the need and a final decision about getting this aircraft was at an advanced stage.

Disclosing that no final decision had yet been taken about upgrading of the MiG-21 BIS series, the chief expressed his desire to get this done at the earliest.

Upgradation of MiG-21 aircraft would include better navigational facilities, airborne radar capabilities attack system and delivery of weapons accurately.

The chief admitted that Pakistan had more F-16s, ground attack planes and MiG-21s acquired from China. Pakistan had also modernised its air defence arrangements. However, the IAF [Indian Air Force] was constantly reviewing these developments, the air chief said.

As regards self-sufficiency, the chief said that salvation lay in indigenous manufacturing of necessary aircraft and spares. He stressed the need for upgrading the industrial base of the country to match up with defence requirements.

As of the North, East and North-East, the air chief said the situation along the Chinese border was not as bad as in the past due to ongoing dialogue between the two countries. He did not see any air threat from Myanmar [Burma] though surface threats existed due to insurgency activities from north Myanmar.

The new air chief described the situation in Siachen as stable saying that the line of control was a tactical battlefield.

About a national defence policy, he said that it was for the government to take a decision about the role of the defence forces in the region since India did not have territorial ambitions.

Asked why the air force was not attracting youngsters, the chief said that this was not a phenomenon peculiar to India. He said several young men were attracted by the idea of flying but they were not always up to the mark.

Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul took over from Air Chief Marshal N.C.Suri who retired from service.

U.S. Seen Pursuing 2-Track Policy on India

BK0708101993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 93 p 11

[By S. Nihal Singh]

[Text] A host of testimonies presented to the U.S. Congress, Mr. John Malott's bluntspeaking visit to India, and the successful American effort to force Russia to annul the rocket deal point to the Clinton administration's two-track policy towards India. It is supportive of Indian economic reform policies and helpful with loans from international institutions. On the other track, it will continue to pursue relentlessly its agenda to force New Delhi to follow its non-proliferation goals and use human rights as a lever to try to get India to conform to American strategic and political objectives.

Contrary to our experience of the Carter presidency, India still subscribes to the myth of U.S. Democratic administrations being more empathetic with India. The Clinton administration is showing yet again that this is not so, and to the extent Washington is giving salience to non-proliferation and human rights issues, it spells trouble for the Indo-American relationship.

A major new element in the situation is that the Clinton administration is shaping its policies towards India and the world in the post-Cold War era at a time the President has still to stabilise himself politically at home and the reach of American power has never been wider and less challenged. The almost universal belief that American bombing of targets in Baghdad as a reprisal for Iraq's alleged complicity

in a plot to murder the former President, Mr. George Bush, was largely motivated by the need to revise Mr. Clinton's low poll ratings points to the temptation of using foreign adventures for domestic purposes.

The United States sees itself as being given a unique opportunity to refashion the world according to its desire and interests even as it realises that its supremacy will not last for ever. As far as India and the region are concerned, it has propelled Washington to try to rescue the failed policy of equating India with Pakistan on the assumption that both countries can be effectively pressured because there is no countervailing force and the nonalignment movement is as good as dead.

Kashmir occupies a central place in this strategy because it is a flashpoint in relations between India and Pakistan. The situation on the ground in the State and the Valley's alienation from New Delhi have helped Washington to shift its position. Nevertheless, there is a political motive in the Clinton administration distancing itself from the Simla agreement and pleading for an Indo-Pakistani agreement taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiris. This stance flows from Washington's desire to follow an "even-handed" policy towards the subcontinental adversaries.

Americans will continue to mount pressure on India to subscribe to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in substance, if not in form, and have overruled Indian objections to a regional nonproliferation arrangement. They suggest that New Delhi's concerns on China and Kazakhstan can best be met through a five-power meeting. Washington has refused to define China's role and status in such a meeting although it is an acknowledged supplier of nuclear material and missiles to Pakistan.

While the United States is not willing to address the question of Israel's nuclear arsenal, it believes it can tame India and Pakistan. Washington must show indulgence to China because it is a nuclear weapon power, offers a vast market and is a strategic factor in U.S. Pacific policies. American anti-Chinese rhetoric therefore dissolves into granting of the most favoured nation treatment in trade as candidate Clinton readjusts his sights to the demands of the U.S. presidency.

The Clinton administration's "even-handed" approach to India and Pakistan is above all a lever against New Delhi. It was, on the face of it, totally unrealistic of Indian politicians to expect Washington to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. Such a pronouncement, bringing into play new sanctions against Pakistan, cannot be a part of the new American game plan.

It is thanks largely to India's own failings and shortsightedness and Pakistan's propaganda coup that have led to the salience human rights abuses have acquired in Kashmir. The decision to shut out Amnesty International merely gave it added incentive to ferret out cases, often giving currency to secondhand accounts. Even when offenders in Indian para-military and armed forces were brought to book, the codes of bureaucratic secretiveness saw to it that they remained unpublicised. It is only now that New Delhi is waking up to the damage its policies have been causing.

Human rights issues, like environmental concerns, are the icons of the last decade of the 20th century. On one plane, this heightened concern for protecting the rights and dignity of the individual is to be wholeheartedly welcomed. On another plane, living in the imperfect world we do, human rights can become a political lever to be used to reopen the Kashmir issue, as the U.S. is attempting, or to serve Pakistan's propaganda and political purposes.

The central question the new American approach to the subcontinent raises is how India can cope with the challenge while safeguarding its national interests. For one thing, the going promises to be difficult, and Indian foreign policy makers must display nimble footwork and diplomatic finesse. But New Delhi must be clear in its mind on how far it can accommodate American concerns and interests without sacrificing the country's vital interests.

The United States is India's largest trading partner and the biggest foreign private investor. It also has a dominant influence on how and on what terms international financial institutions will give assistance to India. And in today's circumstances, Washington can deny India supplies in any frontier technology area from those that have it; clandestine sales fall in another category.

There are three sets of problems India has with the United States: trade and related issues, questions of nuclear and missile non-proliferation, and political issues such as those concerning human rights and how to cope with Kashmir. The first set of issues, irritating as it can be, is the least dangerous because it concerns the larger world as well and forms a common strand in the policies of many developed and developing countries. Besides, the Indian economic reform process is continuing and U.S. investments and the volume of Indo-American trade are bound to grow.

Issues on nuclear and missile non-proliferation are the most contentious because the U.S. has set its heart on capping Indian and Pakistani nuclear capabilities.

Apart from more general goals, the justification offered is that Indo-Pakistani animosities and the Kashmir question make it conceivable that a war on the subcontinent could bring nuclear weapons into play. At the same time, Americans would perhaps argue that the question of Israel's nuclear weapons could be addressed only after the peace negotiations are successfully concluded. The difference really is that the U.S. has never been "even-handed" in its relations with Israel and its Arab neighbours.

New Delhi needs to think afresh on its opposition to the five-power meeting, the five to comprise the U.S., Russia and China, in addition to India and Pakistan. Although

the proposal was first broached by Pakistan, its American authorship has been subsequently acknowledged. The danger, of course, is that three of the five could gang up on India for tactical reasons and Russia, as New Delhi has found to its cost, is a weak reed.

On the other hand, it could give India the opportunity to show how absurd a proposition it is to give a guardianship role to China, which, by the reckoning of American experts, is Pakistan's main supplier of nuclear and missile technology. And what rationale can there be to leave out Kazakhstan, a nuclear weapon power, from such a meeting?

The irony of the Indo-American relationship is that all the hopes that had blossomed after the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of India's patron power have been dashed in a surprisingly short time. The Clinton administration has other priorities. Where its concerns converge on India, they usually spell trouble.

Commentary Views U.S. South Asia Policy

BK0908141793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Commentary by M.K. Dhar, THE HINDUSTAN TIMES diplomatic editor]

[Text] Within weeks of the State Department official, John Malott's, blunt-speaking visit to India, comes an assertion by another senior official in the Clinton Administration that the U.S. Government will soon complete its policy review of South Asia and see what adjustments are needed. However, the broad themes likely to define the American approach are: The use of preventive diplomacy in matters of war and nuclear proliferation, the promotion of democracy and human rights, and an emphasis on trade and investment opportunities and economic reforms. This administration has no intention of tilting toward anyone or against anyone in South Asia, he maintained. One can hardly find fault with these policy objectives if pursued with due regard to national security and sovereignty concerns of countries in South Asia—India being the largest and most populous among them, with an unblemished record of democracy and human rights, the temporary aberrations caused by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism not withstanding. But the feeling is growing in India that a deterioration in its relations with the United States has set in as a result of pressures which have started growing since the Clinton administration took over. It is felt that the realism in a sense of fairness should guide the relations between the two countries in future.

For decades, India has been urging the United States to correct its tilt toward Pakistan, to desist from arming it to the teeth and using its influence on Islamabad to make it give up plans to destabilize the situation in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir through direct sponsorship of terrorism. But India's pleas went unheeded, leading to continuous instability in the subcontinent and bloody conflicts. While the Bush administration sought to put pressure on Pakistan over the terrorism issue, the Clinton administration has let the country off the hook even as the Inter-Services Intelligence's role in sponsoring terrorism in India was confirmed by the CIA and Mr. Malott himself. This has been done obviously on receiving assurances from Pakistan that it will scale down its involvement in Kashmir, when, in fact, over 3,000 trained militants are awaiting to cross over to India. Mr. Malott propounded a new thesis that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is disputed territory and the issue must be resolved through talks between India, Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir. Ill-informed U.S. Congressmen go on making allegations of human rights violation in Punjab and Kashmir. The Clinton administration official, however, talks of Kashmir issue being resolved under the Simla Agreement which has been a long-held Indian position.

On the question of preventing nuclear proliferation in South Asia, pressures are growing on India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] or become part of a regional nonproliferation arrangement with five nations. However, the United States has refused to define China's role and status in such meeting, though Beijing is an acknowledged supplier of nuclear materials and missiles to Pakistan, though it has signed the NPT and promised to abide by the Missile Technology Control Regime. In both cases, Washington appears to have based its plan on high morality which lacks logic. The United States goal, as stated, is first to control the arms race in South Asia, then to reduce programs and production of fissionable materials and finally to bring about elimination of materials as well as weapons. Again, India's concerns about China's growing nuclear stockpile and deployment of missiles aimed at Indian cities and transfer of missiles to another country are not taken note off.

Though the United States is supportive of India's liberalization policy and is India's largest trading partner and the biggest foreign private investor, pressures on the trade front under Super 301 and the Dunkel proposals are continuing unabated. It is hoped that pressures on trade-related issues, human rights, and technology transfer will not increase to a level as to damage India-U.S. relations. India can respond to American concerns, but without sacrificing its vital interests. This applies also to other countries in South Asia, which are still at a low level of economic development and can resist unreasonable interference in their national policies only by undergoing considerable hardship and sacrifice. These countries wish that all the hopes they had entertained after the end of the Cold War are not dashed. The American South Asia policy should not seek to protect the global strategic and economic interests of the sole superpower, while making these countries vulnerable in many ways. India's response to any arm twisting would be, as the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, put it the other day: We would stick to our policies and protect our interests, but without confrontation. This is a difficult task, but we cannot be simply signing on the dotted line.

U.S. Urged To Recognize Indian Space Progress

BK0708134793 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Jul 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Now INSAT-2B"]

[Text] India's latest satellite, the INSAT-2B, is telling the story of our country's scientific skill and splendour, which countries like the United States do not want to hear at all, but are forced to pay attention to. The United States has been able to seduce Russia into canceling the cryogenic engine deal with India (of course, in return its name was slandered the world over), but its gangsterism has yet to assume a novel position from where it can shoot down our newest satellite, which is now eagerly waiting to be gracefully stationed in its slot 36,000 km away and 200 km above the earth. Even if the United States acquires such a power, it will not be possible for it to do this because the success achieved with the INSAT-2B, which represents the completion of the INSAT satellite series, is a big and significant piece of news for the world. It is big and significant to the extent that CNN, the United States' largest TV network, directly relayed the whole program, which showed the launching of this satellite from French Guyana, and narrated the virtues of the Indian space research program with liberal comments.

It was because of the fear of these successes that the United States cast its evil eye on the Russian deal on the supply of cryogenic engines. But how will it change the situation? If the engines are supplied, we will be able to launch a powerful satellite [Geo-Stationary Launch Vehicle] into the space within two years. And, if we do not get the engines, this program will be delayed by two more years. This means that in spite of the United States move to deprive us of the Russian engines—because of its fear of Indian commercial rivalry in space technologies by 1995—we will pose it the same challenge in 1997. India has the capability to put into orbit satellites, missiles and rockets to such an extent that it will soon be able to produce inter-continental missiles rendering the Missile Control Technology Regime—brainchild of the American lobbyists—an exercise in futility. Since it will not be easy to prevent India from becoming a major power in missile and satellite technology, the United States, instead of lamenting, should happily view the ways this newest satellite of the Indian Space Research Organization (in fact, the 15th in the series) will provide improved weather forecasting and subscriber trunk dialing facilities to the Indian people. It will also enable the Indian Doordarshan to operate five new TV channels. It is a matter of few more years when India will be able to sell such facilities to other needy countries in the open market.

ISI Trying To Unite Terrorist Groups in Kashmir

BK0808090793 Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Jul 93 p 2

[By P.N. Jalali]

[Text] Jammu—The ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] of Pakistan is making frantic efforts for bringing about "functional unity" between the terrorist groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir with a view to intensifying their struggle against Indian security personnel.

Official sources here said that the top intelligence body of Pakistan, which controls and runs terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir, is feeling deeply perturbed at the 'decimation' of terrorist groups and their leaders at the hands of Indian security personnel, which is effectively tackling the challenge of the militants.

The ISI wants the terrorist groups to set up a "United Jehad Council" comprising various militant groups, principally the Hizb-ul-Mujahidin and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and work under a unified military and political command.

So far the ISI has been keeping the militant factions distributed in puny packets so as to utilise their services without any resistance from them. The tactic has also ensured that no unified political command grows out of the ranks of the militants so that they may begin acting on their own without being doctored by the ISI.

Hizb-ul-Mujahidin, the armed wing sponsored with the help of fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, has so far received the fullest backing of ISI, as against the JKLF which has not endeared itself to Pak intelligence set up because of its adherence to demand for independence of Kashmir.

Next in hierarchy of militant outfit is the Jamaat-ul-Mujahidin, a force specialising in committing brutalities with "Muslim Janbaz Force" and Ikhwan-ul-Muslimin and Al-Umar-Mujahidin forming the special hit squads, besides committing acts of kidnapping for the ISI.

As part of its efforts for bringing about unity among the terrorist ranks, ISI is reported to have summoned the top leaders of most of terrorist outfits to occupied Kashmir for consultations on chalking out a new strategy on countering "Indian onslaught" besides forging the unity and common command.

Information available from the terrorist grapevine in Kashmir claims that the ISI has already smuggled out two top terrorist leaders, namely Javed Mir of JKLF and Salabuddin of the Hizb-ul-Mujahidin to occupied Kashmir where they are currently holding discussions with their ISI mentors.

The ISI had earlier successfully brought together 11 militant groups to form wbat was described as JKLF - Therik-e-Hurriat conglomerate, primarily to halt the inter-gang clashes between warring militant groups, the Hizb and JKLF in particular.

Following this there was a halt in the inter-gang killings for some time but of late these have erupted with vigour

and rival gangs have revived hitting at each other's supporters in surprise raids, which have so far claimed hundreds of victims.

The arrival of Afghan and Sudanese mercenaries in the Valley, who have been assigned the command of some terrorist outfits, has not helped avert the clashes between the terrorist groups but intensified them, it is pointed out.

Observers here say that if ISI succeeds in bringing about unity among the terrorist groups, the proliferation of militant groups may end in favour of one or two large groups operating under a single command, military as well as political.

This may also mark a significant change in Pakistan's strategy in running the proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir, where popular mood is fast running against the four-year-old militant campaign.

Pakistanis Allegedly Training Kashmiri Youths

BK0708095093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In a major crackdown, the Indian Army yesterday arrested 118 youths while they were being taken across the line of control for training in Pakistani camps. A Defense [Ministry] spokesman said in New Delhi that the youths, in the age group 14 to 21 years, were captured in and around Sonamarg village in the Kashmir valley. They were being taken for training in Pakistani camps by the members of the ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence]-trained Al-Jehad group.

Twenty-Three Militants Arrested in Kashmir

BK0808080293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the Army arrested 23 militants in and around Sonamarg village yesterday while they were being taken across the Line of Control for training in Pakistani camps. A defense spokesman said the combing operation is still on. As reported earlier, the Army arrested 128 militants in the same area on Friday.

Iran

Majles Open Session Held 8 Aug; New Cabinet Present

Deputy Sets Priorities in Address

LD0808142393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0500 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Pre-agenda speech by Lotfollah Zare'-e Qanavati, deputy for Behbahan, during Majles open session on 8 August—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

What I am going to say is not meant to undermine past endeavors and services, rather it is aimed at emphasizing the criteria and values that should be considered in the future. A great deal of effort has been made to move toward reconstruction of Islamic Iran. But there are issues which if we do not try to improve the supreme goals of the honorable leader of the revolution—aimed at achieving social justice and social welfare—will not be realized and will create further public disenchantment. All the esteemed officials know that if they lose the people they have not served Islam. It is the people who should implement Islam and benefit from it in this and the other world.

I address the esteemed members of the new cabinet in several parts. In foreign policy the new government's plans should be based on confronting arrogance and its agents; and on support for the oppressed Muslims and other tyrannized peoples of the world. And in this way they should act as decisively and uncompromisingly as the late imam and the honorable leader.

Today in Azerbaijan, the part severed from Islamic Iran, Tajikistan, Egypt, Algeria, Kashmir, oppressed Lebanon, and, most painful of all, Bosnia-Herczgovina, our Muslim brothers and sisters are subjected to the most bestial aggression and killing in history.

The criminal America and its European and Asian and Arab lackeys are continuing their hostility and enmity against the Islamic Iran. Therefore how Muslims should be defended and methods of confronting the aggression of the world arrogance should clearly be seen in government plans. That is, the government should place anti-oppression and anti-infidelity policies on top of its foreign policy. [passage omitted]

Another important and critical issue which should be considered is youth employment. Unemployment has been termed as the mother of all corruptions. The unemployed youths, apart from being a burden to their families and the community, are also deprived of many social blessings as they cannot form a family. An unemployed youth is a ready catch for the enemies of Islam and the revolution. Investing in youth employment will remove many social problems. [passage omitted]

I urge the ministers of the new government to pay attention to the level of inflation now and what is to come, and take a pen and a piece of paper and calculate for themselves that most government employees, teachers, and particularly the retired, cannot make ends meet. Believe me the salary of most of them is not even enough for 10 days. Believe me they are living in very difficult financial circumstances. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani on Loss of Cabinet 'Friends'

LD0808175493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met this afternoon under the chairmanship of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At the meeting, the president expressed his satisfaction with the ministers who will not be included in the proposed new cabinet, and called on them to assist with other responsibilities and areas of service to the country.

The president added: I regret the fact that circumstances and realities are such that I will not be accompanied by friends who have been in the front ranks of service to the country. [passage omitted]

Radio Views Session, Cabinet Changes

LD0808104993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's new cabinet was proposed to the Islamic Consultative Majles today with six new faces and one reshuffle. In a letter to the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the president gave a list of his new cabinet ministers to receive a vote of confidence from the Majles. The list proposes new persons for the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development; Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; Commerce; Interior; Health, Treatment and Medical Education; and Culture and Higher Education.

Also the current minister of defense and armed forces logistics has been proposed for the Ministry of Roads and Transport. [passage omitted]

The Majles, in accordance with Article 167 of its internal regulations, will hold three 5-hour open sessions next week [beginning 14 August] to discuss the candidates. In the meetings 20 deputies can voice their views for half an hour each, in support or against one or all of the candidates. Then the president or the candidates can, for five hours, respond to issues raised by the deputies. Later voting will be held separately for each of the candidate members of the new cabinet.

The basis for the vote of confidence is the absolute majority of the vote-holding deputies present in the session. In accordance with note three of Article 143 of the internal Majles regulations, should the Majles fail to give a vote of confidence to one or a number of the ministers, the president must, in accordance with the Article 135 of the Constitution, present to the Majles within a maximum of 15 days another person or persons for a vote of confidence.

Further on New Cabinet

LD0808202293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Mr. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning presented a list of the members of his new cabinet to the Islamic Consultative Assembly [the Majles]. The new cabinet showed some changes and, among the 23 ministers introduced to the Majles, there are observed six changes and a re-shuffle. [passage omitted]

The final selection of each member will depend on securing an absolute majority of votes from the deputies present in the session—to be known as the vote of confidence.

Until this phase of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's program, there are evidently some well-calculated efforts by him in making the choice [as heard]. The goal of such efforts is to fully attain the government's program, embodied in the first and second economic, social and cultural [five-year] plans. To this end, the changes observable in the new cabinet, too, can be assessed as a serious endeavor by the Islamic Republic of Iran's president for more desirable progress towards the objectives.

The role of the Majles and the views expressed by the people's deputies on criticizing the ministers and making suggestions concerning them—and also about their programs—constitute yet another device in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran that can be very effective in advancing the goals and programs of the president in his capacity as the head of the executive. Moreover, the crucial role of the Majles in designing and approving the tasks of the Council of Ministers thoroughly considers the principle of the independence of the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, and their separate functioning. Realization of this principle can be vital in better and more precise execution of the government's long-term and infrastructural programs.

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Holds Initial Talks With Besharati

LD0708204893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait's deputy foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Saturday [7 August] for an official visit. He held the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran on Saturday afternoon in a friendly atmosphere.

During the talks, which lasted an hour and a half, Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance on the occupation of Kuwait and stressed his country's preparedness and political resolve to expand all relations with Iran and to remove any possible obstacles to achieving this end.

The Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister explained his country's position on regional issues and issues of mutual interest. He stressed the importance of striving to find a

formula and a framework for raising and solving problems and for improving relations.

First Deputy Foreign Minister ['Ali Mohammad] Besharati explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policies; spoke of our country's reasonable foreign policy; stressed the importance of such meetings and discussions for the purpose of expanding ties; and, referring to the planned meetings between the two countries' officials, expressed the hope that, as a result of the mutual understanding that exists between the two countries' officials and leaders, we will witness ever increasing ties between the two neighboring countries in the future.

The Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister also met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Sheykholeslam on Saturday evening.

Meets With Velayati

LD0808123893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Kuwait today met with Foreign Minister Velayati and handed him the Kuwaiti foreign minister's message addressed to him. Our report does not mention details of the message of Shaykh Sabah to Mr. Velayati.

During the course of the meeting, Majid al-Shahin said that the aim of his visit is to follow up the two countries' foreign ministers' discussions in Tehran and Kuwait.

Mr. Velayati also responded to Kuwait's willingness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: Tehran also wants regular discussions between the two countries' officials aimed at expanding relations. The foreign minister added that he will meet with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah in New York in the near future. Another issue that was discussed during the above mentioned meeting was the need for further cooperation within OPEC to stop the fall in oil prices.

Departs Tehran 8 Aug

LD0808194793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, 8 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and his delegation left Tehran for Kuwait this evening at the end of an official visit during which he held important talks with high-ranking officials in Iran about ways of consolidating bilateral relations. He also discussed recent developments in the Arab Gulf region.

In a statement to KUNA before his departure from Tehran, al-Shahin recalled that he met with Iranian First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, who asked him to convey his greetings to Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

Al-Shahin further said he also met with Hosein Kamali, Iranian minister of labor and social affairs, with whom he discussed manpower relations between the two countries. Al-Shahin indicated that the Iranian minister stressed the great importance he attaches to organizing and running these relations, whereby Iranian manpower in Kuwait remains in the regions where it is working and shows discipline and respect in order to preserve the rules and laws agreed upon between the two sides. Al-Shahin indicated the intention of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor "to appoint a labor attache in Tehran who will be in charge of following up and organizing the manpower coming to Kuwait, which is a good procedure in itself."

Al-Shahin said at the end of his statement that he had a second round of talks this afternoon with his Iranian counterpart to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the talks held with the Iranian officials.

He indicated that agreement was reached to hold a biannual meeting at the level of the foreign undersecretary in the two countries to examine and assess bilateral relations in the light of the visits to be exchanged between the two countries' delegations.

In his turn, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati hailed the results of al-Shahin's visit to Iran, and indicated that it was a good opportunity to exchange opinions and viewpoints on bilateral matters in order to consolidate bilateral relations between the two sisterly and friendly neighboring countries. [passage omitted] He also said that the Kuwaiti-Iranian discussions included security matters between the two countries, and concerned in particular questions of coordinating efforts to put an end to illegal [border] infiltrations. [passage omitted]

Mohtashami Offers View on Israeli Attack, Retaliation

NC0708160693 Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Aug 93 pp 16, 4

[Commentary by Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, former ambassador to Syria and former Tehran deputy in the Islamic Majles: "Who is Responsible in Lebanon?"]

[Text] For over a week, southern Lebanon was the target of aerial bombing and land and sea attacks by the forces of occupied Jerusalem. Thousands of oppressed Muslim people of the region were forced to migrate to the more central cities in the north such as Beirut.

However, what really occurred during this black week was this: Aggression and crimes by Israel and valiant resistance by Hizballah forces and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon; support by the West and the powers of world arrogance spearheaded by the world-devouring United

States for these crimes and aggression by the Zionist regime; shameless silence by the Security Council and international organizations; condemnation of these crimes and aggression by Arab countries and some Islamic governments, as well as moral and material support by the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the great leader; and a visit by our foreign minister to Damascus to obtain more information on the latest situation and to hold talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials, especially after an extraordinary session of the Arab League foreign ministers was convened.

Israel's long-term objectives in committing aggression against Israel are:

A. To annex another part of Lebanese territory (only if it can retain it in the face of the guerrilla and suicide attacks of the Islamic Resistance forces).

B. To disarm and expel Hizballah from southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' and from all temporary and permanent borders that the occupied Jerusalem regime chooses for itself. Of course this objective would be pursued by means of military aggression and by political pressure on Syria and Lebanon if the first objective fails.

The interim objective of the Zionist regime is to create hatred and abhorrence among the residents of cities and villages in the south and in al-Biqa' toward the Islamic Resistance so that the people themselves will clash with Hizballah.

One of the short-term objectives (on the eve of the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state) is to attain military superiority in Lebanon to use as a trump card on entering into the next round of the compromising talks. Another objective is to ascertain the level of Western and U.S. support of the Israeli regime against the Arabs. If the Arab sides were to submit to such a compromise it would mean greater political concessions (with regard to returning the Arab territories, vindicating the Palestinians' rights, and returning the sacred land of Palestine and holy Jerusalem to the great Islamic realm) and unconditional recognition of Israel. Perhaps they would be exposed to imminent direct and indirect military intervention by the West and the United States and would be toppled from their thrones of power.

Superiority of military power, access to modern armaments, and the audacity born of the unstinting support by the United States tilt the political balance in the Middle East in favor of Israel. The side opposed to Israel, that is the group of Islamic and Arabic countries—despite holding vast resources of wealth and manpower as well as highly motivated forces—have servile rulers who believe that their rule and government depend on currying favor with the West and the United States. Those who for half a century auctioned away Palestine and holy Jerusalem to the Zionists are sitting at the negotiating table with Israel for talks of humiliation and bondage. In this humiliating game, the last trench of resistance outside the borders of occupied Jerusalem and the mainstay of the Palestinian intifadah, that is, Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance, has been attacked and is to be slaughtered at the feet of Israel's American mentors.

The reactionary Arab rulers have endeavored to taint Hizballah with political issues and to shackle it in the fetters and chains of accusations and bondage and to drag it into Lebanon and in the region. They wish to enclave this seething freedom-inspiring force in the south and western al-Biqa' and then sever its backing, which is firmly rooted in the depths of the great body of the Islamic ummah, so that it gradually disappears into oblivion, so that they can destroy it completely in one fell swoop at an opportune moment, in the abattoir of Israel and the United States.

Those who wished to enmesh the combatant forces of the Hizballah cells and the Islamic Resistance in a labyrinth of political problems, internal and external, in various regions by means of a process spread over a period of a few years, strove to disarm it and to divert its attention from the enemy to other issues with the passage of time. As a result they imagined that this would inspire a sense of pessimism and isolation among its most valuable key forces and these circumstances would be most favorable for inflicting the final blow on the Islamic Resistance. They thought that their predetermined objectives would certainly be attained and irredeemable blows would thus be dealt to the Islamic Resistance in such a manner that their ability to attack would be curtailed for quite some time.

In my capacity as the humble and sympathetic servant of the Hizballah forces and the Islamic Resistance, I wish to offer my modest and sincere suggestions to the leader of the revolution and to all the Islamic operational, security, and military echelons of the Islamic Resistance and Hizballah, and I hope they will prove useful in unraveling their problems:

1. One of the distinctive traits of the Hizballah movement and the Islamic Resistance right from their inception has been that they have acted on the basis of the consistent principles and policies of the Islamic Revolution. They have never taken orders from Arab or non-Arab governments and they will continue to tread this path because the principles of the revolution are firm and steadfast while governments are prone to change.

2. The secret of the staying power and existence of Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon is their continued adherence to the conditions that brought about their existence in the first place. Dear Hizballah has not wavered even slightly from its original objectives and the path that was designated for them by his eminence the imam (peace be upon him) and stressed by the great leader. They consider their aim to be the destruction of Israel and the interests of all the forces supporting the Zionist regime in the region and in the world and they continue striving for the establishment of an Islamic government in Lebanon.

3. The cause and source of all the misfortunes and hardships of nations, especially of the oppressed people

of Lebanon and Palestine, was and is the United States. The concept of the separation and segregation of U.S. and Israeli interests is an impossible and fallacious one and is the reason for the inability to fathom and comprehend the correct nature of the arch Satan. It is with the material, moral, and military backing of the United States that Israel continues its political existence. Its attacks and aggression against Lebanon have been and will continue to be with U.S. support. On principle, Israel acts as one of the agents of the United States for implementing its repressive policies against the Muslims of the region and of the world.

4. One of the paths for the salvation of the Muslims and the perpetuation of Islamic existence of the people of Lebanon is to shatter the myth of the grandeur and patronage of the United States. Therefore, U.S. interests and its economic, security, and espionage centers in Lebanon, in the region, and in various parts of the world should be attacked just as the criminal United States has attacked the interests and centers of the Muslims of the world. We are witnessing such examples in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Armenia's occupation Azerbaijan, Kashmir, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq (directly and indirectly by U.S. agents).

5. Hizballah should not concentrate all its operational capability for confrontation with the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa' or even in all of Lebanon. This is exactly what the enemy wants. Hizballah should extend its defense and aggression lines all over the region, into Europe, and even in the United States. The vulnerability of Israel and the United States in defensive operations is open and is not centralized. Therefore, it is natural that the enemy should not be permitted to dictate or impose the time and place for its confrontation with the Islamic Resistance.

However, now that Israel has embarked on operations to facilitate Christopher's mission, in conjunction with relentless defense, actual blows should be dealt on Israel and its American supporters in places they cannot even imagine. This should be done in such a manner that the enemy's power to think and plan is constantly wrested from him as was done in the past.

Now that Dr. Velayati has taken a step, with his personal initiative and with the cooperation of the Syrian Foreign Ministry and Lebanon, to halt the war in which the cities and villages in the south and western al-Biqa' have been destroyed and thousands of oppressed Muslims have been rendered homeless, a cease-fire has been declared. The discussions the aforementioned parties, the warring sides, had with the United States, and through it, with Israel have attained the outcome desired by the despotic Israeli regime. The question now arises: For how long and to what level do the formulators of foreign policy wish to forge ahead regarding political collusion and secret talks in camera to decide the fate of the Muslims? Is there any other way to decide the destiny of the country of Palestine and the Muslim and homeless nation? Have not the oppressed Palestinian people fought for the vindication of their basic rights themselves? Every time the enemy was beleaguered and reached an impasse, did not the Arabs enter into negotiations and the situation was ultimately resolved to the benefit of Israel? All they did was allocate a sum for the living costs of the Palestinians.

Today, after the cease-fire, is Israel withdrawing to the Palestinian border or to its previous borders inside Lebanon, and is it compensating the damage and losses it has inflicted on Lebanon? Will it not embark on attacking and expelling Hizballah at an opportune moment after regrouping its forces? Is not the experience of the mediation by the foreign policy planners in the aggressive war of Armenia against Azerbaijan ample proof? Now that with the initiative of the mediators (!) a cease-fire has been announced in Lebanon and Hizballah is beholden not to attack Israeli forces in occupied Palestine, will not the existence and applicability of Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance be affected in the same manner as the Amal Movement and other Palestinian organizations in southern Lebanon? If God forbid this is so, who is responsible?

Commentary Terms U.S. 'Sole International Terrorist'

NC0608122893 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 20 Jul 93 pp 16, 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States—Democrats and Their Personalized Foreign Policy Against Iran"]

[Excerpts] The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran occurred at the height of U.S. power and prestige in Iran and destroyed the political and economic gains amassed by the West, especially by the United States, over the period of a few decades in the Middle East region. By exporting its liberation-seeking waves, it acquainted the capitalist world with new phenomena such as martyrdom, sacrifice, Shiism, and revolutionary Islam. The erstwhile U.S. President and the Democrats had not yet recovered from the blow of the victory of the Iranian Revolution when a new blow was dealt on the body of U.S. interests in Iran with the capture of the den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran] by the heroic student followers of the imam's line, which caused quite a few U.S. diplomat spies to face international trial and judgment. On the other hand, not even a year had elapsed since the fall of the shah, when most of the liberation-seeking movements all over the world adopted the path of a struggle against the illicit U.S. interests all over the world in emulation of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

In fact, the downfall of the shah and the monarchical system, as well as the capture of the U.S. spies, formed the roots of the real hostility of the U.S. echelons, especially of the Democrats, against Islamic Iran and the Muslim Iranian nation. In addition, the eight years of the heroic defense by the Basij [mobilization units] and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, as well as the fruition

and blossoming of thousands of national and Islamic talents [este'dad] were other factors that have kept alive the fury of the U.S. politicians against Islamic Iran. If the second batch of U.S. Democrats, that is, Clinton and his secretary of state, have not learned any lessons from the Carter era and have once again labelled Iran a terrorist, and on the pretext of human rights are issuing warnings to our nation, we should attribute the roots of such a hostile stance to the attitudes of the Democrats with regard to the Islamic revolution for the past few years.

Despite the lapse of 14 years since the advent of the Islamic revolution in Iran and massive changes in international polarization, some undeniable facts remain constant and unchangeable with regard to Iran:

1. Oil remains the magic commodity of our century. The shores of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea have been identified as the richest sources of oil and gas which are ready to be extracted without entailing much expenditure. The safety of these reserves is undoubtedly in the hands of the regional countries. With the longest coastline on the Persian Gulf, Iran naturally has the greatest share in safeguarding the Persian Gulf in the center of the Middle East, even if the entire West denies its role and importance in this regard.

2. Iran is the only direct link between the newly independent Central Asian republics and the Persian Gulf and the free waters. In view of the conflicts in Georgia and Abkhazia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the insecurity on the Afghanistan border, and the uncertain fate of the some of the republics of the former Soviet Union, Iran is the sole, nearest, and safest path to the free waters.

Even if these republics were to hand over their affairs or entrust their investment to the West, they will still be forced to depend on Iran for easy passage. The recent session of the Economic Conference Organization [ECO] in Istanbul has affirmed such a role for Iran.

In other words, we can state that at least as regards relations with Central Asia, all paths lead through Iran.

3. The Islamic revolution in Iran has brought about deep and extensive changes in the thoughts and deeds of the Muslims of the region which will undoubtedly endure forever, and will be the source of many of posterity's experiences.

The actions of the revolutionary Egyptian Muslims, the victory of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria, the intifadah, the rise of Islam in Turkey and Central Asia—all these are undeniable results and repercussions of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

4. However, in addition to being plagued by domestic problems, the United States is undergoing severe and increasing internal and external pressure in areas such as a massive budget deficit, a slump in production, an enormous imbalance of trade with Japan, the birth of a united Europe, and the imminent emergence of the PRC—by the end of the current decade—as the biggest industrial and productive power of the world with the highest gross national product; all these factors have cast doubts on the power and domination of the United States at the international level.

In spite of the above parameters [preceding word in English], the current U.S. Administration remains perplexed and confused. The U.S. Armed Forces have—with all their military might—gone after the hungry people of Somalia on the one hand, and on the other, they fire missiles at the embargoed and besieged Iraqi people. The United States is the sole international terrorist at present.

The U.S. State Department is going around in circles because of the fast-paced changes, and its greatest weakness is that it has not been able to clarify its stance on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. It has been unable to adopt a concise stand and take swift action—the two traditional characteristics which have marked U.S. foreign policy in the past. Thus, in light of the current policy of the Democrats against Iran, it can be said that at this juncture, the Democrats have "personalized" their foreign policy more than was done in the era of the Republicans. Their policy with regard to Iran is taking the form of vengeance for the hostage crisis and the blows that Iran has dealt them in the past.

In view of the Democrats' stance, it is essential for the United States to note the two following points:

1. With the end of the cold war, militarism and strategy formulation with modern equipment has been relegated to second place as regards the priorities of the system in international relations. Production and the economy have moved to first place. Thus, the final winner will be the one who has the greatest production and the most dynamic economy.

A united Europe, Japan, and the PRC have recognized the current priorities in relation to the international developments, and have changed their policies accordingly. The United States still considers itself in the militarist stage of the seventies and the eighties.

2. The social and economic patterns of the world are in the throes of swift change, and any country that does not change direction quickly will suffer blows and be eliminated from the game.

The Democrats, however, who have been away from the U.S. political scene for three terms, should understand this reality better than anyone. We can safely state that the continuation of the current U.S. policy with regard to Iran and other important international issues will once again eliminate these followers of the doctrine [preceding word in English] of "armed human rights" from the political scene for another prolonged period.

Editorial Discourages Opening Discussions With U.S.

NC0908153193 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Contradictory Utterances of the White House"]

[Text] Clinton's threat to Iran comes at a time when the assistant secretary of state clearly stated at a session of an investigative and consultative committee that the United States is ready for direct talks with Iran. Edward Djerejian said that the United States is in favor of discussing certain issues with Iranian officials that are of concern to the United States.

Contradictory and varying utterances by the U.S. echelons are a continuation of the same carrot-and-stick policy that is used in certain crisis conditions. The U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially with regard to the Arab-Israel peace talks, has reached an impasse. U.S. experts attribute this impasse to Iran's non-recognition of Israel and the need to continue the struggle against its despotic regime.

Israel is in one of its weakest positions in recent years as it has not been able to attain a completely effective compromise with Arab countries, or to surmount its internal problems, despite various kinds of pressure. In view of the continued struggles of the Palestinian people despite the isolation practiced by the Western media as regards events inside occupied Palestine, the occupied Jerusalem regime is facing an irresolvable dilemma. The recent attacks by the Zionist regime on southern Lebanon, unprecedented in the last 15 years, indicate Israel's concern and utter abjectness more than anything else. In such circumstances, the Western mass media are seeking to link the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon with Iran by disseminating footage from their archives on CNN and BBC networks showing Lebanese and Iranians marching together in order to give the impression that Iran is involved in the events in Lebanon. It is for this reason that the United States has also initiated propaganda against Iran.

The struggle of the people of Lebanon and Palestine—which has been going on for many years—is precisely for the defense of their territorial integrity and their rights which have been wrested from them. Now that the compromise talks have been stymied, the Zionist regime wishes to attain its objectives by means of force, savagery, and by generating a military crisis in the Middle East so that by such intimidation it can reap political capital in future talks. However, all these ploys have been defeated and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon has proved that it will not succumb to pressure. The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to follow its principled policy with regard to the developments in Lebanon.

The remarks by Edward Djerejian are not new, even though from the tactical point of view, they may be considered a sort of retreat. The United States cannot impose any conditions for holding talks with Iran, but Islamic Iran has some basic conditions for any kind of talks or relations with the United States, which it has presented frequently.

Until the United States brings about a fundamental change in its aggressive foreign policy against Iran and the Muslims of the world, returns the lost rights [assets] of the Iranian nation, and abandons its anti-Islamic policies, it will never see an official of the Islamic government sitting for talks with Americans face-to-face. This is something which is unchangeable and the U.S. carrot-and-stick policy will not bear any fruit.

U.S. Conditions for Direct Talks Viewed

NC0908171693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 2

[Hoseyn Zia'i commentary: "A Broken Bridge and Impossible Conditions"; quotation marks as published]

[Text] In a speech at the foreign committee of the House of Representatives, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian presented the latest U.S. stance toward Tehran. In this speech or "political statement," Washington humbly requested direct talks with Iran, linking it to five conditions according to which Tehran should "change its attitude" so that it is completely in accordance with U.S. political criteria! According to the United States, Iran's entry into the international community is only possible if it implements these five conditions:

1. Iran should refrain from gaining access to any kind of technology and should officially remain deprived of science and technology, or in other words, in a state of "technological quarantine."

2. It should not strengthen its military power. According to the United States, Iran should be the weakest military power in the region.

3. Iran should accept U.S.-style peace and persuade the Arabs to accept a humiliating peace with the Zionist regime.

4. Iran should remain silent on the disruptive policies of some of its neighbors, such as the Abu Musa issue.

5. Iran should implement a pattern of human rights that conforms to the latest U.S. standards.

In Djerejian's words, the United States is mobilizing its allies internationally to achieve these five conditions. He believes that in the current international climate it will be very difficult and complex.

While admitting to Iran's international prestige and accepting the reality of Islamism, Djerejian states: Our policy does not rule out face-to-face talks with Iran. What is important is that Iran should clearly understand this point; that is, our efforts for "direct talks" with an "authorized official" of Iran will continue.

An understanding of the futile U.S. vendetta with the number one power of the Islamic world (Iran) and the acceptance of the reality of Islamism as the most forceful political power of "tomorrow's Islamic world," are the two focal points of Djerejian's remarks.

In fact, by propounding these five points, Washington has manifested its impatient desire to break the ice in the cold war with Iran. Therefore, Washington's efforts to alleviate false international concern against Tehran are merely "a defeatist measure." Such remarks are being aired at a time when the United States is in one of its weakest periods in this era of its declining empire. It is a superpower that is presenting a weaker and more effete image by the day.

The Americans, who were at the height of their superpower strength in the eighties, are now running after the naked and hungry people of Somalia, and in Bosnia-Herzegovina their role is merely of "bread-throwers" for the war victims who are made to fall into the hands of the Serbs! The United States cannot even protect the areas it has declared safety zones. For the smallest international move, the United States has to first proffer its begging bowl to the European capitals.

Therefore, the "major error" on the part of the United States is that despite the serious political and economic conditions it faces, it wants to speak from a position of strength and considers itself able to dictate terms and conditions. Iran on the other hand, with its powerful leadership of Islamism—a power that will conquer the entire international domain—is in its strongest political position.

To repair its "broken bridges" with Iran, the United States should take more effective steps as in fact it is the United States that should bow down to the conditions that the reality of the Islamic revolution of Iran has presented.

UN Given Reports of Fresh Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0608173693 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 6, IRNA—Iraq has violated the terms of the ceasefire with Iran in 22 instances between April 25-May 16 this year.

A letter on the topic by Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi was circulated as a document of the Security Council Thursday [5 August].

Among the instances cited as Iraqi violations of ceasefire between the two countries were several cases of unwarranted military and provocative operations by Iraq on points along parts of the border of the two countries known as no man's lands as well as many instances of unprovoked shooting by the Iraqi soldiers on restricted areas between the border of the two countries.

In another letter to Butrus-Ghali, also circulated as a Security Council document Thursday, the Iranian envoy said that on 26th June two Iraqi fighter planes had violated the Iranian airspace over Piranshahr, and later returned to the Iraqi airspace.

The U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 arbitrated peace between Iran and Iraq August 1990.

Tehran on Turkey-Iran Security Talks, Relations

NC0608152993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Talks Between Turkey and Iran on National Security"]

[Excerpts] Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ozdem Sanberk held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and Foreign Minister Velayati on border security between the two countries yesterday. Sanberk expressed Turkey's wish to upgrade the level of its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for more frequent contacts and talks between the officials of the two countries.

It will be recalled that the talks between Turkey and Iran on border security have been going on at various levels for many years. The relations between the two countries were rearranged within the framework of the colonialist CENTO [Central Treaty Organization] Agreement toward the end of the 1970's, but relations were further activated and given a new structure with the establishment of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization].

It is a fact that regional cooperation between Iran and Turkey, the relations of which are based on religious and cultural values and mutual interests, will create a favorable atmosphere for an agreement on security on their common border. Regarding cooperation between the two countries, we can mention the meetings held by the Iran-Turkey Joint Security Committee every six months. That committee meets to discuss the removal of obstacles related to border security and other matters. It will be recalled that the committee met for the fifth time in Turkey toward the end of June. The decisions adopted in that meeting will remove certain misunderstandings between the two countries and pave the way for further improvement in relations between Iran and Turkey in the near future.

One of the important issues discussed during the fifth convocation was the effects of the negative reports published by several Turkish newspapers, which intend to harm the relations between Iran and Turkey. The officials who attended the meeting admitted that the approach maintained by those newspapers completely conflicted with Turkey's policy. They also admitted that certain forces want to use the newspapers to put pressure on Turkey. Considering the importance of the matter, the Turkish Government should act more freely in

launching the necessary initiatives against that approach, which is aimed at disrupting the relations between Iran and Turkey.

Relations between Tehran and Ankara are based on mutual friendship and respect, regardless of the provocations by the Turkish newspapers. The final round of the talks Iran and Turkey held on the question of security ended with the signing of a nine-point protocol, which established new mechanisms for cooperation bewteen the two on security. A three-member delegation from each country will meet once every two months. The Turkish delegation will be composed of the governors of Van, Agri, and Hakkari. The district officers of Khoy, Maku, and Orumiyeh will represent Iran. Problems related to the common border of the two countries will be discussed by the two delegations when they meet once every two months.

It is a fact that maintaining talks by the officials of the two countries at various levels will pave the way for cooperation between the two sides and facilitate the achievement of their common objectives.

Afghan Ambassador Presents Credentials to Velayati

LD0808163593 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 8, IRNA—First Ambassador of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan to Iran Seyyed Mohammad Khairkhah [name as received] told Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today that appropriate grounds have been prepared for the return of the Afghan refugees to their country.

Khairkhah who met Velayati to present a copy of his credentials, said that Afghanistan leaders are trying to maintain peace and security in the country in order to pave the way for the reconstruction efforts.

Velayati in reply expressed pleasure that some problems facing the Afghanistan Government have been settled, and said participation of all ethnic as well as Shiite and Sunni groups in the Islamic Government of Afghanistan is a key to the success of that country.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the Government of Afghanistan would overcome all the difficulties in the light of coordination and cooperation among all groups.

Khairkhah was previously in charge of the central bureau of the Jamiyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan in Tehran.

Correction to Nateq-Nuri Assails UN Secretary General

LD0808142893

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Nateq-Nuri Assails UN Secretary General in Majles Speech," published in the 9 August Near East South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 67, column two:

Sourceline make read: Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0532 GMT 8 Aug 93...(correcting sourceline)

Pakistan

U.S. Delegation To Receive 'Cold Reception'

BK1008065793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Aug 93 p 1, 10

[By Sikander Hayat in Islamabad]

[Text] A United States congressional team is arriving here today to an expectedly cold reception given the new depth to which the Pak-U.S. relations have plunged in the wake of formal American refusal conveyed to Pakistan on the delivery of contracted 71 F-16s.

Representive Earl Hutto (Democrat. Florida) is leading the team, all the five members of which are on the House of Representive Armed Services Committee.

Other members are Norman Sisisky (Democrat. Virgina), Solomon P. Ortiz (Democrat. Texas), Owen B. Pickett (Democrat. Virginia) and Robert K. Dornan (Republican. Califorial).

In a brief announcement the local office of the United States Information Service said that "while in Pakistan, the delegation will meet senior officials of the Government of Pakistan to discuss topics of mutual interest."

On the face of it, the visit of the American legislators is of a routine nature. Such visits are undertaken by the legislators during the summer break of the Congress. But, in view of F-16s imbroglio the visit of the representatives is likely to acquire great significance.

In fact, it has been always the U.S. Congress that has failed to comprehend Pakistan's security concerns. Somehow, the Israeli and Indian lobbies working in the American Congress have been able to create doubts about Pakistan's genuine defence needs. It is the Pressler Amendment passed by the Congress which has been responsible for scuttling the deal on the purchase of F-16s for which nearly half the payment has already been made.

The visitors are expected to learn firsthand that with F-16s having disappeared in the thin air Pakistanis are bound to explore other options to fill the vacuum that is likely to emerge with the non-availability of this aircraft. One obvious option is that PAF [Pakistani Air Force] will go for the French Mirage-2000 or the Russian MiG.

But, it is the setback to the emerging understanding between the governments of the two countries on the question of nuclear non-proliferation that is bound to shock the legislators. Visitors are likely to be told in less-varnished terms that now that the conventional weapons are becoming difficult to get for Pakistan nuclear option sources say is bound to acquire new urgency.

Article Views Importance of F-16's to Military

BK0808125593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Aug 93 p 4

[Article by Ali Abbas Rizwi: "PAF Draws on Fighting Spirit After U.S. Refusal To Sell Fighting Falcons"]

[Text] Karachi—The Fighting Falcon has been the most significant addition to the Pakistan Air Force's [PAF] inventory in the last three decades. The top-of-the-line F-16 has enhanced the PAF's operational capability, and proved itself as a very effective aircraft for both offensive and defensive roles. It is the fighter that the PAF thought "would serve as a stepping stone to the kind of aircraft fleet" it expected to have at the turn of the century. Good take off but that was before Larry Pressler put his foot down.

On Thursday, the situation became clear when the ministry of defence confirmed that the US delegation was here on a visit to discuss the re-sale of the F-16s to a third country. This more or less ended all speculations that the PAF might be able to squeeze out some F-16s from the United States in spite of the (damned) Pressler Amendment. It seems now the take off to the next century on the wings of the Falcon may have to be aborted. Perhaps for good. Fired from the MiG-29s but the Soviet aircraft are presumably not the PAF's first choice. [sentence as published]

Again, if the 71 Falcons are not coming, the $500 million ground support equipment for which Saudi Arabia had paid the money would remain under-utilised. It should be noted that a sophisticated aircraft like the F-16 which has a fly-by-wire (FBW) system cannot operate from a base which does not have proper ground support equipment.

Also, the PAF will not be able to maintain the psychological pressure over the IAF which it could have had with an inventory of 100 plus F-16s. The Falcon is a much-hyped about aircraft, and the one which the PAF fears the most after the F-104 Starfighter. It has been used in combat in the Afghanistan War, in battle against the Syrian Air Force in the Bekaa Valley, and to bomb the Iraqi atomic reactor at Osirak. During the Gulf War, the F-16s had a mission success rate of over 90 per cent. The IAF does not know much about the F-16s.

The US decision underlines the fact that Pakistan needs another sophisticated aircraft to meet the threat across the borders. In the last 10 years, the PAF inducted only one state-of-the-art fighter in its inventory, while the Indian Air Force (IAF) bought the Mirage 2000s and the MiG-29s. Today against a force of 37 F-16s, the IAF boasts around 48 Mirage 2000s and 54 MiG-29s with more than 20 Fuicrums on order. Also, the Indian Light Aircraft (LCA) may be ready by 1996.

This makes the case for another super sophisticated fighter all the more important for the PAF.

The consequences of the termination of the deal for the purchase of 71 F-16s, however, do not end here. They would rather become more pronounced from now onwards.

First of all, the PAF may have already trained pilots and maintenance teams anticipating the arrival of the 71 Falcons. This is borne out by the high number of trainers bought in the first batch of the 40 while it has been flying the Mirage 2000 for the last nine years.

Moreover, there is no multi-role fighter as good as the F-16. This fact is important for the PAF which cannot afford a single-mission aircraft. Before the Gulf War, the Fighting Falcon had scored 50:0 air-to-air exchange ratio in the conflicts in the Middle East and in South West Asia. As far as the ground-missions are concerned, the Falcon teams have won more than 16 major bombing competitions since 1981, including the Royal Air Force Bomb Competition 1981, and the USAF-wide Gunsmoke '83, '85, '87. During the Gulf War, the F-16s proved to be the best tank killers. On the other hand, the Mirage 2000 is basically an interceptor and has a separate dedicated export attack version called 2000s.

The non-delivery of the 71 F-16s may also cause a gap in the PAF's striking power. The PAF officers are confident that the air force can meet any threat and shoot down any intruder. However, if 15 or more F-16s. Now if the Falcons are not coming, this effort translates into wasted ressources. Even if the PAF now plans to buy the Mirage 2000, of which there is a good probability, the operational conversion of crews onto an unfamiliar system will take time despite the fact that unlike the Soviets the French follow the standard Nato system as far as the aircraft instruments are concerned.

Furthermore, the cancellation of the deal could render a large chunk of the PAF missile inventory redundant. This includes 200 Sparrow medium-range air-to-air missiles and large number of Sidewinders which are incompatible with the Mirage 2000. The Pakistan Air Force will, therefore, have to pay a great amount of money to Matra in order to acquire Mica and Super Matra R 630D missiles. It is also not known if the AGM-65 Maverick surface-to-air missiles and Paveway Laser Guided Bomb, which were specifically acquired for the F-16s, can be fired from any other aircraft. The Sidewinders can, however, be F-16s had been delivered, the PAF could have spared smore aircraft for interdiction. [sentence as published]

It is also possible that the rigidity in the US stand may deny the PAF a chance to pursue the mid-life update (MLU) programme for the F-16s which it has already in its inventory. This may increase their attrition rate, and a possibility of their becoming outdated as compared to the F-16s flown by otehr air forces.

And then there is no guarantee that the PAF will get back the $600 million which it has already paid to the parent company for the 71 Falcons. Without this amount, it would be difficult for the PAF to buy the F-16's replacement.

The Pakistan Air Force has faced many difficult periods and it has come out of them honourably. The US refusal to supply the F-16s is a challenge for the PAF, which it must meet despite political, commercial and budgetary complexities. And as a PAF officer put it "Fighting Falcon or no Fighting Falcon. It is the fighting spirit that ultimately counts."

Editorial Views Talks on Sale of F-16's

BK0808123593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Case of the F-16's"]

[Text] The issue of the sale of 60 F-16 fighters to Pakistan under a 1979 contract with the US has been hanging fire for some years. Pakistan has already paid $658 million towards the cost of the aircraft and is also paying through its nose for their storage. The high powered American delegation, which visited Pakistan recently, left after inconclusive talks on the issue. A fresh round of consultations has been scheduled for the second or third week of this month in Washington. The US administration has taken the plea that in the presence of the Pressler Amendment, a Pakistan-specific resolution passed by Congress cutting off aid unless the American President certifies that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear bomb, it is not possible to supply the aircraft. This reneging on a valid contract has caused understandable anxiety in Pakistan on two counts. Firstly, these fighters were considered necessary to Pakistan's defence needs, given India's vast military build-up and tensions over Kashmir. Secondly, the Pressler Amendment and the subsequent aid cut-off in October 1990 were obviously one-sided and failed to take into account Pakistan's justified security concerns in the light of India's explosion of a nuclear device in 1974 and its on-going nuclear programme. The nuclear proliferation issue in the subcontinent cannot be torn out of its geo-strategic context. Pakistan has shown commendable restraint in emphasising the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme and refraining from taking the fateful step from a 'technical capability' to the production of actual nuclear weapons. Such restraint has not always found a sympathetic response in Washington, but that appears to be changing in some significant ways now. The US is finally veering round to a recognition that the nuclear issue cannot be resolved except as a regional problem, for which Pakistan has consistently proposed bilateral negotiations as well as a five-power conference.

The US has also begun to understand that its pressure tactics in the past have failed to make a dent in the situation. The withholding of the F-16's was part of the same self-defeating exercise, which achieved little except to sour relations between the US and Pakistan. If the declared aim of US policy in the region is not to disrupt the friendly relations between the two countries, an aim reiterated after the latest talks on the F-16's issue, it should follow up on its new perceptions by inducing India to take a reasonable position on a settlement in Kashmir. This would go a long way in reducing tensions betwen the two neighbours and provide a conducive atmosphere for discussions on the nuclear conundrum and reducing defence expenditures. This is the area where the US can play the positive role of an honest broker, in recognition of the justice of the Kashmiris' right of self-determination and its being the root cause for the escalation of tension between Pakistan and India, which inevitably leads to enhanced defence spending and has even fuelled the nuclear rivalry. Domestically, it is up to the US administration to persuade the Congress to do away with the blatantly discriminatory and now obsolete Pressler Amendment and clear the way for normal relations. As far as the F-16's are concerned, it seems clear that in the US view, the contract stands arbitrarily cancelled and the only remaining point of discussion is the means and terms for the return of Pakistan's money. If after the F-16 order's cancellation the US does not take steps to redress the one-sided discrimination and its conconmitant pressures of the past, an abject failure of a policy, Pakistan must, in its own interests, look to other suppliers of defence equipment necessary for safeguarding its independence and existence.

Prime Minister Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Elections

BK0908145793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has directed the Ministry of Interior to draw up a contingency plan of action to meet any law and order situation for the days leading up to the general election as well as during the election days. Chairing the meeting of the Federal Cabinet in Islamabad today, the prime minister said these plans must particularly relate to sensitive and vulnerable areas and also take into account the historic background of law and order in these areas. He cautioned the concerned agencies against the activities of saboteurs who may attempt to create a law and order situation. The law and order machinery should, therefore, be in a state of absolute preparedness to tackle any situation. Such a contingency plan is required as the caretaker administration is committed to hold elections on schedule irrespective of any attempt at disruption.

During the meeting, the minister for interior, Mr. F.K. Bandial, presented the Federal Cabinet with a review of the measures taken so far to assist the Election Commission in terms of law and order during the elections and in relation to the issuance of national identity cards to eligible voters.

The prime minister reiterated his government's policy to discipline, restructure, and streamline the economic and social sectors wherever necessary and practicable within the time span available to the government. While some of the issues require greater deliberations, there were others which could be resolved in a relatively shorter period. It was in this background that the prime minister

directed the Cabinet Secretariat to frame a comprehensive policy on allotment of plots in residential and industrial colonies. He regretted that allotment of plots has remained a source of political patronage which allows exercise of unreasonable discretion for those in authority. The allotment of plots, he said, should be based on clearly established criteria. The policy should be so drafted that it ensures justice and equity and is absolutely transparent. The criteria so evolved should be institutional and systematic and be disseminated through the media for the information of the general public.

Referring to another menace afflicting the national economy, the prime minister directed stringent measures against pilferage of national revenue. A handful of people, he said, have been robbing the country of its resources not paying their dues on account of taxes and utilities. A list of such pilferers, he said, be prepared and submitted to him immediately. He also directed that cases be registered against those who were guilty of robbing such agencies as WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority], KEFC [Karachi Electric Supply Corporation] and the gas companies of their revenue.

During the meeting, the minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Abdus Sattar, briefed the Cabinet members on his recent mission to certain Western capitals on the issue of Bosnia.

PPP Document Expounds Party Policies, Ties With U.S.

BK0708130593 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Aug 93 p 11

[Text] Karachi, Aug 5—The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] intends to forge a new post-cold war relationship with the United States based on common aims of peace, continued peaceful nuclear programme, mutual reduction of arms with India, strengthening of links with Europe and galvanising the association with China and the Muslim world.

PPP's draft national agenda for October elections says that "Pakistan is threatened with isolation in the world community by the USA which is a dramatic reversal of position that prevailed in 1988" when Bhutto government was in office.

"It is vital for the country's welfare and self-respect that the situation should be reversed," the PPP document says.

The party believes that Pakistan must forge new post-cold war relations with the United States, based on common aims of peace and peaceful settlements, arms control, conventional as well as nuclear in South Asia; war against drug abuse and terrorism, economic growth, social reform and democracy."

On the nuclear issue the party is "committed to continue and expand Pakistan's programme which is designed for technical and economic development, and to protect it from nuclear blackmail."

The PPP document says that Pakistan's nuclear programme was outlined by "Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1972, when he declared that Pakistan beleives in using atomic energy for peaceful purposes and proposed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, banning the introdution of nuclear weapons.

"The PPP will continue this farsighted policy ... the wisdom of which has been recognised by the world community and supported by all major powers.

"Even the USA has finally recognised that the nuclear issue between India and Pakistan really is a regional problem and has to be resolved by an even-handed approach.

"The PPP will never give up Pakistan's nuclear programme which is peaceful, nor accept any one-sided or discriminatory treatment nor agree to roll it back without India doing the same," the PPP document says.

"But the party is prepared to "enter into bilateral or multilateral negotiations to resolve the nuclear issue and prevent a nuclear race in the subcontinent."

The document also recalls Benazir Bhutto's efforts in getting a pledge from France for a 900mw power plant with China, construction of which has begun at Chashma.

The PPP beleives that Pakistan was isolated since the party's government was dismissed in 1990. The document maintains that since then Pakistan has been increasingly implicated in acts of terrorism, Indian rhetoric has increased and nuclear understanding with France did not materialise.

The party intends to "work for Mutual Arms Reduction Treaty with India because it believes that in the New World Order if India and Pakistan are to save themselves from unilateral, curbs forced upon them, it is in the interest of both to consider a mutual arms reduction."

The document attaches great importance to the resolution of Kashmir issue and pledges that "PPP will not play party politics with this vital issue when the people of Kashmir are engaged in a valiant struggle for their legitimate rights."

"The violence in Kashmir, as in Bosnia, originates from the denial to the Kashmiri people of their legitimate rights and of the use of the most brutal repression against them by security forces," the PPP document says.

The party reaffirms support for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the principles of the Untied Nations resolutions and by negotiations agree upon at Simla, while urging India to "desist from brutal repression" against Kashmiri people.

PPP believes that solution of Kashmir issue was vital for arms reduction in the region and economic development.

On Bosnia and Palestine, the PPP document affirms that it shall do all in its power to protect and preserve the life and honour and property of the people of Bosnia, Palestine and Kashmir.

"Our support for the brave and long suffering people of Palestine and Bosnia will continue unabated until their miseries end and they join the community of nations as free and independent States," the PPP document said.

The document recognises that "friendship with China remains the corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy, while relations with the emerging giant, Japan, need to be stengthened".

PPP also maintains that "emerging tensions in the Muslim world require us to help our friends, without taking sides, and should the need arise, assist as a peace-keeping force in coordination with the United Nations."

Special emphasis is placed on basing relations with Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics on strong economic ties rather than use fundamentalist card."

The document also stresses the need for "giving special priority to Europe, in particular to France, Germany and the United Kingdom".

It also calls for removing the irritants obstructing improvement in relations with Russia by resolving the prisoners of war issue.

New Minister Assigned to Kashmir Affairs

BK1008025293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Shafiq, the minister for education, science and technology, population welfare, health, special education, and social welfare, has been assigned the additional portfolio of Kashmir and Northern Areas Affairs. His assignment will take effect immediately.